

The Castell of

loue, translated out of Spanyshe into

Englyshe, by Iohn Bowchier

kyght, lorde Bernes, at the in-

staunce of the Lady Elizabeth

Carewe, late wyfe to Wy

Nicholas Carewe

kyght. The whiche booke

treateth of the loue be-

twene Rertano and

Laureola

Daughter to the kynge of

Maladonia



Androlwe Spigurnell to the reader in maner of a prologue.

Beholden you Readers of this booke present
which the lord Barchout of the Spanyshe
warth Translated to a good intent
And reduced the same into our Englyshe
And thanks to have the same dyd he synne
wherein it appereth moche paynes he dyd take
At the instant request, and for a ladyes sake.

Betwene two persons it doth procede
The one a lover named Ariano
Whom and hert he was in dede
Unto the noble Duke of Quere
The other was daughter to kynge Galle
who was kynge of Macedonia
And named she was a curle.

I havinge cause to fyt and make
By my selfe all stowe
I toke a booke as I do use
For to rede and take upon
Upon this I chaunced and then anon
The booke namede I was therewithall
I purposed to procede and rede it all.

The knyght once rede and the matter sene
I thought it a piteous and unwise
To be presented to a lady or a queene
Forge it is to a ladyes shame

Specially noting a Ladies crueltie
That declare them selfe in every case
To haue pytie merie and grace.

For though she dyd her moost rudeness
Dispayne regarding howe she myghte saue
Her estate nobilitie, and honours
Yet reason wolde, p. tie she shold haue
And not her louers lyfe depraue
For though honour before lyfe, is to be preferred
Yet anothers lyfe, is to be regarded.

For seeing that nature, hath formed naturally
Women to be mercifull, of naturall disposition
It must therfore: double, in women of labilitie
For it is to them, there propre condition
So that it appereth, in the conclus. on
A lady pytie, and endued with crueltie
Is to her honour, reproche and obloquie.

But to the intent, that women in generall
By them dyspayne, and lacke of pytie
Shall note, what incumbrance that cometh and set
A louers that be endued cruelly
Therefore I haue taken, this upon me
This booke to peruse, and read with payre
In wyl to haue it, prynted agayne.

And because to the reader, it shold be more
I haue taken upon me, presumptionly
To penne the matter, though unable
Yet haue I done it, and also rudely
I haue added somewhat vncouthly
The rudenes therof, I do subscrybe
Into the readers, to sturde it.

Desyringe them, with herty submyssion
To regarde my mynre and intent
And not to ponder, my p[re]sumpcion
But esteeme the meanyng, and what intent
And of my good will to gyve them iudgement
Unto my ruder the blame asyng
Which in this doyng, and chere offendyng.

To the good and vertuous Lady
the Lady Carewe gretynge.



My affectyau desyre and
obligacyon, that I am
bounde in, towarde you
right vertuous and good
Lady: as well for the goodnes þat hath
pleased you to shew me, as for the nre-
nes of consanguinite, hath encouraged
me to accomplyshe your desyre, in tra-
slatyng this present booke. And though
my so doyng, can not be correspondet
any thyng to recompence youre good-
nes, yet not beyng ignorant of your
good will and desyre, the which in this
cause I take for the hole effecte: thin-
kyng therby to do you some smale re-
memoracyon. And also bycause the
matter

matter is beche pleasaunt for yonge
ladies and gentle women. Therefore
I have entrepyled to reduce the same
from Spanish into the English
tongue not adorned with so freche elo-
quence, that it shuld misste to be pre-
sented to your goodnes. For o2 I firs
entred into this rude labour, I was
brought in to great doubtfulness, and
founde my self in dyuers ymaginaci-
ons. For seying the quicke intellygence
of your spirite, I feared it shoulde the
remembraunce of your beette & pruden-
ce, gaue me audaunce. In fone I foun-
de feare, and in the other certie & har-
dynes. Finally I dyd chose the mosse
bnuaylable, for myne shame,
and mosse byllie, in any reprehensi-
on o2 rebuke for the mosse boldenesse
in that I haue not taken suche re:py-
te as I ought to haue done, yet in con-
syderacyon of your gentynesse, myne
affectyon is alwayes in truste to sca-
pe blameles. I haue taken this enter-
pyse

pyce on me, more by desyre to haue
blame therby, then to attayne by my
praye or laude. Wherefore right ver-
tuous lady, maye it please you of your
goodnes to accepte this lytell present
treatyse, and to receyue this my good
wyl, or ye condempne the faulte. And
also to haue more affection to the pre-
senter, then to the value of the thyng
presented/ requyryng you to holde and
repute me alwayes as one of the num-
bre of them, that alwayes shall be
redy to do you pleasure.

And for the surplus,
I desyre the crea-
ture of the fyrst
cause longe to indure
and to encrease
your happye
prosperite.
Amen.

¶ The ende of the prologue.

¶ The Huntot.



After the warres done
& synished in my coun-
trei, being in my poore
mansion, in a morning
whan the sonne illumy-
ned the earthe, in a sha-
dowed darke valey, in the mountay-
ne called Serua de Arenus, in the
countrey of Maledonia: as I walked
in a strayte way shadowed wth sayre tre-
es. Soderly I met with a knyght speer
and furious, whose presence was fere-
ful to regarde. Couered all in heer lyke
a sauage creature. In his lyfte hande
he bare a byghe shyld of fiek, and in
his ryght hand a chynnyng ymage en-
tayled in a clere stone, of such pleasure
& betotie, that p^r clerenes troubled the
syghte of myne eyen, out of the which
there issued dyuers flayes of fier en-
brasyng & enflaming a body of a man.
The which the sayd knyght forceably
led behynde hym, who with dolorous
playntes

Note.

The di-
scriptio
of desy-
re.

¶.iiij.

The la-
mentacio
of Leticia
ano.

playntes and sorowfull passions sayd,
By reason of my hope, I suffer all this,
And when he approached, & that I was
nere hym, he sayd in most an angu-
sh frende, for the love of God I praye the
folow me & ayde me in this my great
besynes, and I as then had more cau-
se of feare, then reason to answer, but
myne eye beyng fixed on this straun-
ge vision, iudgyng in my hart byuerse
consideracions, as to leue my way, me
thought it synplenes, and to accom-
plish the desire of the paciēt, I thought
it dangerous to folow hym was pe-
rell, and to leue hym in that turbacion
was pite, so that I wolde not whiche
was beste to chose, how be it after that
feare had left myne alteracion in some
eale, and that my spirites began to re-
pyre, then I considered well that I
was more bounde to the vertue, then
to the lyfe. And then determyned for
the dought that I was in, to folow
the waye of hym who desyred myne
ayde,

ayde, and I halld to go after in su
the state, that choetive I ouertoke
them. So we went all thre a lōge spa
ce with no lesse anoyance, then to be lo
lyt ary alone fro pleasure or company,
and though the desyre of the dolorous
was cause of my folowynge, yet to spe
ke to hym & led the patient, I sayled
audacire, & to desirer hym, me thought
nothyng auaylable, nor I had not de
seruyd it though in this case I sayled
conscayle, yet after I had reuoluyd my
thought, in remembraunce of many
thynges, I thoughte it best to put to
hym some maner of purpose, so the en
tent that accordyng to his answer I
shuld determyne further. And in this
deliberacion / I requyred hym in the
most cutes wyse that to me was possi
ble, to shew me what he was: who an
swerd me, & sayd: I reude, certaynly ac
cordyng to my naturall condycion, I
ought to gyue the none answer: be
cause myne offyce is rather to assure,
A. liij. euyth

The ex-
position
of desyre
is the
cheefe of
freite in
the castell
of loue
with his
armour

euyl, then to answer well: howbeit in
that I haue bin alwayes noursched a-
monge men of good nurture: I shall
bse to the of the gentylnes, that I ha-
ue lernyd, and not of the fiercenes of
nature. Thou shalt vnderstande sence
thou wilt knowe it, that I am prin-
cipall offyter in the behalfe of the god
of loue: and I am namyd by my right
name, desyre. And with the force of
this childe: I resyst and defende all ho-
pes. And with þe beautie of this I ma-
ge, I cause the affeccyng wherewith
I vzeyle & enflame the lyues, as thou
mayste se by this prysoner whom I
kde in to the prysen of loue: who all
crely by deth hopeth his despyer alyce.
Whan this tumentour hath skewd
me all these thyngs, we mountyd by a
sharpe & an hgh montayne, that fur-
ther to trauayle, my force fayled, and
with great payne, we aryued to the
heyghte. In receyuyng this an were,
then I studyed, how to thanke hym of
the

the grace that he had shewed me: and
therwith sodaynlye he banysshed fro
my presence. This was in the begyn-
nyng of the nyght, wherfore I coul-
de not kepe my waye, nor knowe whe-
ther I shulde drabwe, for the darkenes
of the nyght, and the small knowledge
that I had of the countree. Nowbeit
I thought it best not to retorne, nor
to departe fro the place, that I was
in. Then I began to counsell myne ad-
venture, abandonnyng my selfe fro all
hope, abydynge there my perdition.
Thus in the myddes of my tribulaciō
I neuer repentyd of that I had done,
for I eslemyd better to lese my lyfe, ac-
complyshynge vertue: then to save it,
doynge the contrarie. Thus I was
all the nyght in heuynes and trauey-
lous contemplacyon. And when the
lyght of the daye discovered the wayes
I sawe before me, on the most hyghest
place of the mountayne, a towre so
high, that me semyd it attayned to the
heaven

The disci-
pels of the
Apostle
of Ioue
outwar-
ly.

heaven. It was made by such artifice
that of the strangenes thereof, I began
to marvel, and I ioyned my selfe to
the fowle thereof. The tyme offered me
more feare, then to regard or note it
beholding the strange overage & new-
elthe of the edifice. The fundacio wher
on it was founded, was of a stone clere
and strange of nature, wherupon was
scyled .iiii. great pylles of violet mar-
ble, so fayne, and so hygh, beyond the
comen forme, that it was meruayle
how they were susteyned. Above þ whi-
che was fabricated a tower .iii. square,
the strongest that coude be deuised: on
euery square thereof, on þ heght there
stode an humayn Image, made of me-
tall, paynted with theyr owne colours
one tawny, another blacke, & þ thyrde
grape, & he of them holdynge a chayne
in theyr handes, made of great force
And on the heght of the tower, there
was a pynacle full of great clerenes &
light, comyng fro a raye of lyght illu-
myne

page out of the towne. I hadde then
watches who neuer ceased, but still
wakyd. Of these thynges greatly I
mervayled, & coulde not tell what to
thynke or say. Thus beyng in great
dought & confusion, I sawe I oppyned
to the marbell a steyre mountyng to
the gate of the towne, wherof the en-
tre was so darke that to mount by se-
myd impossible: howbeit I despyred
wyllyng rather to go to my perdition
in mountyng, then to save my self in
tarryng. Thus takyng herte, I bega
to moue & when I was by iii. stappes
I founde a dore of Iron, the whiche
satisfied me, rather to cast to my han-
des, then to attayne therto by sight,
by reason of þe darkenes that I was
in. And when I cam to þe gate, I founde
there a porter, of whom I deman-
ded lycence to entre. He answered
how he was content, so that forþe I
shuld leue behynde me my armure.
grawnted hym to leue such as I have
e. 102

The ar
mours
as a pnt
tour.

The dis
cription
of the
castell
inwar:
dely,

customably byon me. Then he sayde;
my frende, it aperyth well that of the
blage and custome of this house thou
knowest but lytle: The armour that I
demaunde, and those that it behoueth
the to leue, are suche as the herte is
wont to be defendyd withall, fro he-
ynes & sorowe, as are: hope, rest, and
contentacion: for to haue those condi-
cions, there may none ioy of I demaun-
de I thou desyrest. And when I knewe
his entencion, without any further ad-
uise, I answered a assuryd hym, that
I was come thither without any of
those armours. Then he graunted I
openynge of the gate, & so with great
traueryll and sore trouble, I aspyed to
the bryght of the tecture, where I found
be another porter, who demaundyd of
me as the other dyd. And when I had
made hym lyke answer, he gaue me
place to entre. Then I wente all the
length of the tecture, & enteryd into a
halle, wherein the myddes therof stode
a chayre

a chayne breemyng full of fyre: in the
whiche sat he who made to me the re-
quieſt, and cauſer of my perdition. And
myne eyes were ſo charged wth regar-
ding of this ouerage, & my tongue was
ſo oppreſſed, that I coulde demaunde
no queſtion of al theſe meruayles. And
as I regarded them, I ſawe the .iii.
chaynes that the Images held on the
heryght on the tower, were faſt tyed a-
bout this poore captyue pryncer, who
alwayes liuent, and neuer conſumed.
Then I ſawe two ſorrowfull women,
thei^r faces full of weppyngeſ and do-
lours. They ordeyned to ſet on his hed
with great crueltie, a crowne full of
ſharpe poyntes of ſteale, without p^{er}te
perſynge his heade to the brayne. Alſo
there was a blacke Monion, beſtured
in pelotte, who came often tymes with
a great ſawchon, to ſtryke hym, and
euer I ſawe how the patient receyued
the ſtrokes with a ſhelde, ſubtilly iſſu-
ynge out of his brade: the whiche co-
uered

uered hym to the feete. I sawe other
thre seruantes ryght diligent, who
brought hym meate on a blacke cloth
and with great fury gaue hym meate
of bytter taste. And on the one syde of
the table I sawe an olde man sit in a
chayre leanyng his hed in one of his
hādes, lyke a man solitary in thought
& penytenes. All these thyngs I con-
descantle for the darkenes of a tow-
re: but by reason of a clere springe
lyght, that issued out of the prysoners
herte, whiche gaue clere lycht over all.
And when this prysoner sawe me so
astonyd, to se thynges such a mystery.
And y he sawe tyme to paye me with
his wordes, though he were not in my
dette, yet to gyue me some rell, and so-
lacious comforte, with his discrete re-
son, wedled with piteous weppynge,
he began to say in this maner.

The prysoner Laureola.
Some parte of my herte I shall
discouer, as I ought to do for the
followe

Forowhe that I haue of the deferte, how
be it, thou seyst well that in my trybula
cion I haue no powre, to seale any o
ther mānes euyl, myne owne is so great
I praye the take for satisfaction, not
that I do, but that I deye, of thy co
mynge hyther I am the cause I am he
whom thou awest led as a prysoner,
bycause of the tribulacio that thou art
in, thou knowest men it. Turne agayn
to thy spirit and take rest, and quyet
iudgement, to the content thou mayst
be content yu to that I wyll say. Thy co
mynge was to remedy me, my wordes
shall be to aduertise the, who I am, I
shall shew the, & of the mysteries that
thou hast sene, I shall informe the.
The cause of my prysen, I wolde thou
knewdest, and I requyre the to delyuer
me if it be in thy puissance, knowe for
certayne, I am Herians sone to duke
Guero, whom god pardon, and of the
duches Coleres, my bythe was in this
realme, wherethan a countie, named

B.L.

Mace

The ex-
position.
of decla-
ration
of the
castell
of loue.
The ma-
nir of a
loue.

Macedonia, my fortune ordeyned that
I became amorous of Laureola dough-
ter to kyng Guallo, who at this present
tyme repugneth, whom I shulde rather
haue fledde fro, then to haue fallen in
to the trace of loue, and specialllye in so
hygh a place, but as the fyrste mornyng
may not excuse me in fiede of forsakynge
therof, by reason I haue conformed it
by good wyll. Also loue hath banquys-
shed me, & brought me in to this howse
named the Castell of Loue: who neuer
pardoneth, for he semyng displayed the
bayles of my desyre, hath brought me
in to the state that thou seest me in, & to
thintent, thou shuldest the better note.
and make the foundation of this, and
of all that thou hast sent, thou shalte
knowe that the stone, wheron the pry-
son is foundyd, is my fayth, who deter-
mynech utterly to suffre the doloure of
this payne, for the welthe of his euill.
The great pillars that are assysted to
this stone, are my vnderstandynge, my
rea-

reason, my memory, & my will, whom
aiours commaundyd to apere before
his prese. ce: or he wolde gyue any ien-
tence apon me. And y better to execute
on me his true Justyce, demaundyd of
eue of them: y: they consentyd that I
shuld be taken prysoner: bycause y: any
of them wolde not haue consentyd, he
wolde haue afoyled me fro payne and
blame, to the whiche demaunde all. iiii.
answered in this maner. I y: st vndersta
dyng sayd: I consent to the euill of the
payne, for the welth of the cause: wher-
fore my will is, that he be taken. Then
sayde i: calon: & I consent not a lone
that he be in prysen, but I ordeyne that
he there abyde, and dye: for it were bet-
ter for hym y: happy death, then to lyue
in dyspayre colp. etig for whom he shal
suffre it. Then sayd Remoyre, syu that
vnderstandyng & reason, consenteth that
without deth, he cannot be deliuered, I
then pmyse, he shal neuer forget it, but
alwayes haue it in his remembraunce.

B.ij. Then

The, iii.
images

The
shepnes.

The gre
ate wy
nyng.

Then sayd boyll: seying it is thus I wyll
then be the key of his prysone, and deter
myne alwayes to be persecuter of boyll
and desyre. This seyinge the god of loue
who ought to haue sayd me, cōdemp-
ned me and gaue this cruell sentence a-
gaynst me. As for the. iij. Images stan-
dyng on the walles of the towne, eche
of them of a contray colour, as tawny,
blacke, & gray. The one is heuynes, the
other anguylhe, and the thirde trauayll,
The cheynes in theyr handes are their
strengthes, wherwith they holde fast ty-
ed the harte in suche wyse that it can re-
couer none ease nor rest. The great
clerenes and shynnyng, that the Eagle
hath in his becke and wynges whiche
thou hast seene in the hyghest parte of
the towne, whiche is myne inwarde
thoughtes, whiche hath so great cle-
renes in it self, that it suffylth to enlu-
myne the darknes of this cloudy prysō.
and the force therof is so great that the
strength of the thicke walles, can not let
it

it, but that it wyl attayne to the Eagle
 in such wyse, that they wyl go to gy-
 ther in company, because they are þe thyn-
 ges that mounteth & ascenderth highest
 for the which cause my pryson is in the
 hyghest place of the lande. The .ij. wat-
 ches that thou heerst, so diligently wat-
 chynge, be A, I, H, A, P, & H, A, T, E. They be of
 that deuyle, that no hope nor remedy
 shulde entre in to me, the darke stayres
 to mount on, is anguythe, wheron I
 moued, as thou sayst. The fyrst porter
 was desyre, who to al heuyenes openyth
 the gate. Therfore he sayde to the that
 thou shuldest leue all thy armure of ple-
 soure. The other porter was turment,
 who brought me hyther, who is of the
 same condicion. The charye of fyre wher
 in thou seyst me lyt, is my iust affection
 whose flames alwayes brenneth in my
 entrayles. The .iiij. wor men that ga-
 ue me the crowne of martyrdome are
 called payne and passiō, who satisfyeth
 my sayth with this present rewarde.

The .ii.
watches

The
stayres.

The
fyrst por-
ter,

The .ii.
porter.

The
charye.

The .ii.
women.

B.ii.

The

The olde
man.

The bla
ke moze

The wel
de.

Laureole
la the
casse fa
lyd loze
The bla
ke boyde
The me
de.

The. iii.
seruaunt
de.

The olde man that thou seyst lyt in so
great study, representeth great thought
and pensyvenes with greuous care and
solytitude. The which (iorned with the
other euyls) manyfeth my poore lyfe.
The blaie moze besturpd in yelow, e,
who tra uayleth to take adwaye my lyfe
is named dyspayre, & the sheld that illu-
eth eu of my hed defendyng me fro his
strokes, is my wyrtre, who (syng p dys-
payre wold sle me) commaundeth me to de-
fende my lyfe, coside. yng the deserte of
Laureole, he commaundeth me to desyre
long lyfe to suffer aucte, rather the with
deth to make an ende. The blaie boyd
for me to eate en, is ferme stedfastnesse
wheron I eate. The ynke & lepe, theron
are the hely meat, of myne cōtemplā-
ciōs. The. iij. diligēt seruaūt p serueth
me, are named euyl, payne, and bolour.
One bereth the meate of doubtfulnesse:
wherof I eate, another bereth dyspayre
wherin p meate is brought, & another
bereth the cup of tribulaciō, wherin I
drynke

drynke drawyng water fro the herte to
the iyen, and fro the iyen to the mouth.
Now iudge thy self, yf I be wel seruyd,
yf I haue nede of remedy & seyst. I re-
quyre the syn & art here arpyed, & thou
wylt serche for me some reinedye & so-
rowe myne euyl, I desyre of the none o-
ther good, but & Laureola maye be ad-
uertysed & know by the, the state how &
seyst me, & peraduerture thou wylt excu-
se the bycause thou seyst me fayle powre
to make the a recompence. I requyre &
let it not be vndone for that cause, for
more vertue it is to reinedye them that
be in tribulacion: then to susteyne them
that be in prosperite: let thy workes be
suche, that thou repent not thy selfe, for
lacke of doyng it, when thou myghtest
haue done it. ¶

The p^r
soner,
requyre.

The answer of the Auctour
to Lariano.

Thy wordes shewe well, that loue
hath taken and occuppeth thy ly-
bertie, but not thy vertue, the whiche
B. iij.

I proue by that I se in the, to be more
redyer to dye, then to speake: howbeit thou
hast forced thy wyll to proue the wery-
nes of my lyfe, it dorynge what for tria-
uayles passed, and for my solyrti. de pre-
sent, that I haue but for all hope to ly-
ue, and without doubt, so it is for thou
causest my perdyction, desyryng tough-
tes remedy, and yett the uttrest remedy
the same, as a perfyght iudge. And su-
rely I haue hadder lesse pleasure to
heare the, then I haue had sorye to se
the. For I y thy personc is well sene thy
payne, & by thy reasors knowen is thy
bountie, in grynge secoure and ayde
to the neddy: lyke as thou hast done now
to me. For I consydeying the straunge
mysteries of this thy pryson. I doubted
of my saluacion, bekyng all had ben
but illusions done by arte diabolycke,
rather then by any condycion amorous
For this thou hast shewed me I than-
ke the, and now I knowe what thou
arte. I thynke well employed the tra-
uayll

13
wayll that I haue enduryd for thy sake
the knowlege of the moralyte of these
figures, hath right wel pleased me, for
though I well regarded them, yet for
lacke of knowlege my harte was in
captiuyte and prison, and nowe I am
cut of doubt & feare. And wher as thou
hast comaundyed me, that I shuld gyue
knowlege to Laureola in what case I
haue sene the, the which to do I fynde
great peryll for a man of a straung na-
tion, what maner and forme shulde he
fynde to execute suche a message. I ha-
ue not alonely this doubt, but dyuers
other: The rudenes and dulnes of my
wyt, the dyfference of our speche & ton-
gue, the noblenes of Laureola, and the
grayte of this busynes, so that in this
case I fynde but small remedy, but al-
onely my good wyll, which banquillyth
all other incōuenientes and daungers,
for to thy seruice I offre my self as mo-
re as thoughe I had ben thyne owne
seruaunte all the dayes of my lyfe. And
B. in. I

I promyse the that with good herte I
shall accomplishe to my powre all thy
comaundermentes. I praye to God, I
may be as happy as I am desirous to
serue the so that thy deliuerance may
bere wytnesse of my true diligence so
great affection I bere to the, & so mo-
che I am bounde to loue thy noblenes,
that yf I myght remedy thy tribulaci-
ons I shuld repute my selfe well rewar-
dyd for all my trauailes, so that in the
meane tyme thou wylt bere all maner
of assautes patiently in trustyng vpon
me, that when I returne and brynge
the any remedye that thou mayste ta-
ke suche courage in thy lyfe, that thou
mayst feale the sparkeles therof.

¶ The Auctour.

When I had ended myne answere
to Lericano, thenne I departed fro
hym and lernyd the waye to the cytie of
Suria, where as lay þe kyng of Stone,
the whiche was halfe a dayes iourney
from the pylone, that whence I de-
par

14
paryd. And thus I came to the couerte,
and then wente to the palays to create,
to se the maner of the people of p court
and to regarde the forme and situation
of the palayce, and how I myght reso-
te, go, come, or abyde, to entre in to the
enterpryse, that I had in hande. And
this I dyd dyuers dayes, to lerne and
to se, what waye shulde be best & moste
conuenable to my purpose & the more I
studyed, the lesse conforte I founde to at-
tayne to p I desired, & when I had let-
ched all maner of wayes I thoughte
moste auayleable to my purpose to ac-
queynt my self w the yonge courtiers, &
w the principall of p court: for gene-
rally amoge them is found good maner
& curtesy, & thus I drew so long to their
company w in a breue tyme I was este-
myd amonge the as though I had ben
one of thei propre nacion, & at laste I
fel in aqueyntaunce amoge the ladyes, &
lytell and lytell I fell in aqueyntaunce
with the ladye Laureola, and dyuers

It methinks
to enter
in the ly
he puts
posse.

B.iii.

times

tymes I recountyd to her of the mer-
uayles of spayne and of other places,
wher as I had ben. the which she gret-
ly delyghted to here. Then I seyn my
selfe in maner with her as a seruant I
thought then I myght shewe her that
thyng that I desyrd, and on a day as
I saw her aparte fro other ladyes I
knelyd to hie and sayd as foloweth.

The Auctor to Laureola beloued.

Itis lesse goodnes to pardon the
great and noble persones, when
they haue comytted any trespase, then
to be reuengyd vpon the symple & smal
personages, when they haue done iniu-
ry, for the one wyl make amends by rea-
son of theyr honour, & the other may be
pardoned by vertue, the which is due to
be blyd, amonge great personages, &
most specially to noble Ladies & gen-
tylwomen hauing noble hertes accor-
dyng to theyr birth, they ought natu-
rally to haue pyte in theyr condicions.
Lady I say this for peraduenture in
the-

Noble
women
must ha
ue pyte.

15
Thehoping to you myne entent, I shalbe
reputyd to bolde, not hauing respecte
to your great magnificence. In the be-
gynnyng or I was determyued to spe-
ke to you I was in great doubte. But
at the ende I thoughte it for the best,
that yf ye entreate me, in humaynly, to
suffre the payn for my speakyng rather
then to endure in do'our for beinge shyll
A dy ye shal knowe that rydyng on a
dave amonge sharpe mountaynes, I
sawe by the comaundement of Amours
how Lariano sone to duke Guerro, was
taken and led to pryson as a prysoner,
whoprayed me to ayde hym in his trou-
ble and besynes. Wp whose occasion I
left the way of my rest, & toke the dan-
gerous waye of his trauayle: and after
that I had longe gone w hym. I sawe
howe he was put into a swete pryson
as towarde his wyll, but it was ryght
lytter, as to his lyfe: for there he suffer-
eth all the euylles and paynes of the
worlde: Doloute turmenteth hym, pas-
syon

The do-
ynge of
the mcs
sage.

The dy-
uersyte
of the p-
son be-
twene
lyfe and
wyll.

syn foloweth hym, his payne destroyeth
hym, deth manaseth hym, payne exe-
cuteth hym, thoughtes waketh hym, ce-
syre troubleth hym, hevyns condem-
neth hym, his sayth wyl! not save hym
and I knew by hym, that all this ye are
the cau. 2. And I iudge by that I save
hym, his doloure (whiche he kepeth se-
crete in his mynde) to be more greater,
then he hath discovered to me by wepin-
ges, but by reason of the sight, that I
se of your presence, I fynde that his
tourment is not without a iuste cause.
And with sore syghes issuinge fro his
herte, he desired me to gyve you know-
ledge of his euyl/his request was with
payne & doloure, and my obedience, of
pure compassion of his payne & torment,
though I iudge you cruel, yet by fre-
quentacion of your gētylnes I se & thike
ye be pyteous, & not without reason: for by
reason of your excellēt sapience & digni-
te, he beleueth the one, & by your noble
condicion hopeth on the other: & his payne
wherof

wherof ye be causer, yf ye wyll remedye
in pite accordyng to his deservynge, ye
shal be the praised aboue al other womē
that euer were. Remembre now, & behold
whether it is better to be praysed for gy
uynge remedye, or els to be blamed for
sleyng of hym. Cōsider how moch ye be
bound to hym, & for al his passiō & aduer
site, yet he doth serue you, & if ye remedy
hym, the he is y occasiō to cause you to
do as moche as god may do, for no lesse
esteeme, the redeemer: then is the creator
for in takynge fro hym the deth, ye shal
do as moche, as god to gyue hym lyfe.
I knowe not what excuse ye can make
not to remedy hym without, ye beleue
that slepyng is a vertue. I desyre of you
none other good, but to be sorre for his
great euill & payne. This desyre shall
be to you nothyng greuable: for he had
rather for to endure in hymselfe still
payne and aduersyte: then to cause you
to feale any payne & displeasure. This
my bolde speakynge condemneth me,
but

The res
corde of
pyte.

but the p[er]sone of hym that hath sente
me, alleugeth me agayne, his payne is
so great, that none euill can come to
me to be equall to his payne. I requyre
ye ur gentylnes, let your answere be con-
formable to your vertue, and not to the
ferocenes þe shewe by your regards.
And in your so doynge, ye shall be pray-
sed, and repuyd a good messanger, and
the paynefull prysonee Lericano, dely-
uered quite fro all payne.

The answere of Laureola
to the Mactour.

If he were as ri. y. reasons be teme-
rels and fearefull to declare, I em-
blatye they are great and greuous to
pardon: yf thou were of Stone as thou
airst of Spayne, thy reasons and thy
lyfe shuld synne together, but thou
beinge a stranger shalt not receiue
the payne that thou deservest. And as
for the pye that thou thinkest to be in
me, I wold thou knewest, that in suche
cates, doubtfull iudgement cruel-
te

17
tie are as ryue & deue, as are clemencie
pytie, the whiche yf I shulde execute
vpon the, shulde be cause of .ii. welthes.
The one, therty al other shuld take en-
sample of feare. And the other all no-
ble women shulde be esteemed and repu-
ted accordyng to theyr demerites. Now
be it, yf thy sole hardynes, requyre pu-
nycion, yet thy mekenes and benygnyte
consenteth to pardon the, thoughe it be
agaynst the ryght ware of Iustyce, for
not alonely for my sole hardynes thou
oughtest to dye, but also for the offence
that thou hast done agaynst my boun-
tie and vertue, the whiche thou hast set
in the balaunce of doubte, bycause this
that thou hast sayde to me, yf it came
to knowledge of sundry persons, some
wold beleue that thou foundest merced
apparelled to accompysshe thy desyre
as in haupnge pytie of the payne of Le-
riano. Thou oughtest to thynke that
my dygnyte shuld haue put the in feare
rather then thy sole hardynes to haue

The
cause of
feare.

C.I. made

made the so bolde yf thou entende any
farther to procure his liberte, thou may
well seke for his remedy, and sal thy selfe
in perell : therfore I aduyse the seying
thou art a straunger, seke for thy natu
rall sepulture, & not in Macedonia & t
comon with the in such maters, I othe
de my tonge, therfore I wyll say no m
re, but I wyll thou know that this tha
I haue sayd is sufficient, & yf any hop
be in þ to speke any further in this case
thy lyfe shalbe shorte, or yf þ thynke t
cometo me w any mo such ambassade

¶ The Auctor.

When aureola had endyd her wo
des, I sawe well her reasons wer
shorte, but longe was her trouble & dis
pleasoure. So I departed fro her, and
thought vpon many thyngs, the which
greuously tormentyd me, I remembred
howe farre I was out of Spayne, & o
my longe taryeng thence. Also I callyd
to my mynde þ great dolour of Lariano
fore my trustyng his helth, & I percey
ued

nde any
u mayst
thy self
seyng
ynatur-
ia & to
I often
no mo
is that
ny hope
is ease,
ynke to
allades
er wor
s were
e & dis-
er, and
which
mbud
ne, & of
callyd
eriano
errey-
ued

ued well I coulde not accōplysh that I
was purposyd to do, as to bryng Leria-
no to lyberte wth our great perell yet I de-
termined to folow myne enterpryse, du-
ryng my lyfe, or els to bryng Leriano
some hope of relefe. And wth this purpo-
se, the next day I went to þe palays to se
what cōtēnānce Lauceola made: &
when she sawe me, she entreated me as
she was customed to do before, without
chaūgyng of her porte or chere, whose
sure demeanoure brought me in great
suspecte. I thought she dyd it to prove
yf I wolde rātūrne agayne to entre in
to my fyrste reasons, I fearyd lest she
had dissimuled to cause me to take cou-
rage to haue spoken agayne for Leria-
no, and then to haue punished me for
my folythe enterpryse. So I coulde not
tell wtherto to truste thus I passed that
daye and dyuerse other, and ever me
thought by the apparence that I coulde
se by her, that I had more cause to be
bold, then reason to feare. And in that

Fearful
his to
appee
is more.

Impo-
ssance
may get
remedy.

byleue, I wayped a tyme convenient
spake with her agayne, shewynge
my selfe fearefull, though I was not so
deede. For in suche busynes, and with
the persones, it is behouable to syn
some doubtfull turbacion: for in such
cases, to moche boldnes is reputed
fye, for therby myghte be thought that
the dignyte, nor auctoure of the person
were not esteemed. Therefore to saue me
fro that errour. I spake to her with
great audacite, but in a fearefull maner.
So I shewed her all that I thought
conuenient, for the remedy of Leriano, but
her answer was accordyng to the fyrst
sayng she was not so ferce, nor in such
displeasour with me, as she was before.
How be it, in her wordes, she gaue me
knowledge, that I shulde be still and
holde my peace, but yet me thought her
continuaunce gaue me licence to speake.
And thus euer when I founde tyme
place, I requyred her to haue pytie vpon
Leriano. And so dyuers tymes I founde
her

venient, &
unge my
not so in
with su
to fynde
in suche
outed fo
ght that
e person
saue me
with no
maner.
nght cō
ano, but
he fyrste
in such
s before
saue me
till and
ght her
peake.
tyme &
tie bpo
foude
her

her answers sharpe in wordes & meke
in countenaunce. And when I had well
aduyced all her demeanour, I hoped
pon some profyttesynge in her dyuers
thynges, wherby an amorous harte
myght be knowen: for ever when I saw
her alone, she was pensyfe and full of
study. And when she was amonge com-
pany, she wolde not be mery, she abhor-
red company, and to be alone was her
pleasour, oftentymes she wolde sayne
her self lyke, to eschewe other pleasures
and yf she were espyed, she wolde sayne
some dolour or payne, and oftentymes
she wolde gyue sore sighes. And yf I er-
ano hadde bene named in her presence,
she wolde sodeynly starte and leue her
cōmpanyng and bli: she redde as a rose &
agayne pale: her boyce wolde chaunge,
and her mouth wace drye, and though
she coueryd her thoughtes as moche as
was possyble, yet her pyterous passion,
surmounted her discrete dissimulacion.
(I say) pytefulnes, for without doubt,

the out-
ward to
kings of
a lout,

according as she shewed after, she re-
ued these alterations, more of pytie,
of loue. Whobeyt I thought otherwys
in her, seying the tokens that I sawe
her, I thoughte my selfe halfe spedde
some good hope, and therewith I sped
me to Aleriano, and after that I had
shewed hym all þe was passyd bytwe
me and Laureola. Then I counsayl
hym to wyte to her, offerynge my selfe
to beare the letter, and he cleued by
selfe then more redye to wyte, then
to wyte, toke ynke & paper, and wrote
suche reasons as foloweth.

**¶ The letter fro Aleriano
to Laureola.**

If I had as good reason to wyte
to you, as I haue to loue. Then
without feare, I durste be bolde to do
but to thynke to wyte to you trouble
my wyte, so that I lese myne bnder
dyng. Therefore oz I begyn, I syn
my selfe at a great confusyon. Whyl
I saye I may do it boldly: and you
hyy

ther recey
pytie, the
her wyse
same in
pedde of
I spede
I hadde
bytwene
unfayled
my selfe
wed hym
then not
and wrote

to wyte
The me
e to do it
troubleth
understa
I fynde
My be
and your
hygh

20
hyghnes putteth me in feare and doub
te. In the one I fynde hope, and in the
other dyspayre: at the ende I agreed to
wyte, but myne brynnyng is to begyn in
the houre of sorow, for ouerlate it is,
nowe to complayne me, for I am now
in the case, yf I haue deseruyd any gra
ce or mercy, there is myght nothing le
te hyuyng in me to feare. I sauyng all
only my true fayth, which cannot dye
as for my harte is without strengthe,
and my soule without power, and my
wytte withoute memorye. God be it yf
it wolde please you to shewe me so mo
che mercy, as to these my present rea
sons, to make some answer: the trewe
fayth that I beare you, shulde then suf
fice, to restore agayne in me, all the par
tes that are destroyed, I repute mysel
fe culpable, to demaunde of you any
reward, and neuer dyd you seruyce, and
thoughe ye take my seruyce and payne
in good gree, yet ye paye me alwayes
with doubtfull thoughtes: ye may say.

C. iiii.

hoda

how am I so bolde to wryte to you, yet
haue no meruayl therof, for your beau-
tie causeth myne affection, and the af-
fection myne desyre, & de'yre the payne
and the payne causeth the boldnes. And
for this that I haue done, yf yett youke
I haue deserued deth, comaunde to gyue
it me: for it were better for me to dye
for your cause, then to lyue without the
hope of your good wyll. And to say the
trouth, without ye gyue me the deth, I
shall gyue it my selfe, to fynd ther by the
lybertie, the whiche yurynge I haue ser-
chyd for. This wolke I do, and it were
not that I shulde leue you defamyd, as
to be renouyd a murtherer. Unhappy
shulde be that remedye to belyuer me
out of payne, and to cause you to be re-
blame. Therefore in eschewynge of all
such inconuenientes, I requyre you sende
me your lettre, as a rewarde for all myne
euyls, that I see not my selfe, for I can
not lyue with that I suffre, and my deth
shuld so tothe your honour, that all the
dayes

ou, yet
beaus
he af
payne
s. And
ynke
o gyue
to dye
out the
ay the
eth. I
by the
ue ser
were
yd, as
happy
er me
o bere
of all
sende
myne
I can
y deth
all the
dayes

dayes of your lyfe ye shuld be defamyd.
And yf it maye please you to do me any
relese tary not, nor be not slowe lest ye
shall haue no tyme to repent you, nor no
place to redeme me.

[The anctor.]

And where as Leriano accordyng
to the graunte of his passyos wold
further haue executed his wrytyng, but
then blyng prudent discreet for all his
payne wrote no larger, for that he had
wryten was sufficiēt to cause Laureola
to knowe his euyl and payne, for when
letters be wryten at length that is bled
when the writer thinketh, that the reader
hath as good wyll to rede them as the
sender hath to write them, but Leriano
was quyte deliuered fro that psumpcio
wherefore he extendyd his letter no lar
ger. The which when it was endyd, I
receyuyd. with greate heuenes, to se the
sore weppinge that Leriano made, the
which I felt more, then I can expresse
Then I went fro hym and spedde me to

Note
the wry
tyng of
letters.

[C. iij. Leri]

Laureola, and when I came there
she was, I sode a tyme preppse to
ke to her, and so I delyuered the lett
I sayd to her as foloweth.

The auctor to Laureola.
Right excellent Lady, I praye
say any thyng to you, I requy
you to receyue the doloure and payne
me your poore kaitye, for the discha
gyng of my importunat suer, for wh
loever ye shall fynde me of custome,
shal beuer redy to serue you then
be importunat. And surely Arian
dureth more payne for the trouble tha
ye receyue, then for the passion that
suffreth, wherof he wolde excuse hy
selfe though his wyll desyre to suffre
to thentet that it shuld not trouble y
yet his soule desireth not to suffre, b
rather to be in resse. The one comma
deth hym to be still, and the other by
deth hym put out his voyce. But t
stynge in ycur vertue, his doloure is
pressyd, despyng to put all his euyl

here as
se to spe
he letter

cola.
ste or I
requey
payne of
dischar
for wher
ome, I
then to
and ma
ble that
that he
use hym
suffre it,
ble you,
fre, but
maun
her byd
but to u
it is ep
cupill in
to

22
to your presence, beleuyng on the one
parte ye shulde be daungerous, & on the
other parte that it shulde cause you to
haue compassyon. Beholde how many
wayes he deseruyth n. erye, to forget
his trouble he desyret h the det h and not
woll houte ye consent therto, and by cause
it shuld not be sayd that ye consent ther
to he desyret h h lyfe, in that he receyued
his payne to be happy, and for lacke of
his desyre, he leseth his vnderstandyng
and to prayse youre beaute, he desyret h
ayde of all the worlde. Scholde howe
moche ye are bounde to hym, for he
prayseth them that destroyeth hym, he
hath all his remembraunce vpon that
thyng that is the occasyon of all his
euyl, & by aduenture I shuld be so vn
happy that he shuld lese his loue by my
intercession, which he hath deseruid by
reason of his faythfull harte: yet I had
rather I were deed, wherfor I requey
you to receyue this lettre fro hym, and
in the redyng therof to shewe hym some
mercy

mercy, for the payne that he hat he suf-
feryd, and yf ye blame hym ye are more
culpable then he, for that ye haue suf-
feryd hym to endure payne so longe, ye
perceyue well the sorow that he is in, by
the wordes in his letter, he which tho-
ugh his mouth spake them, & his hand
wrote them, yet dolour dydde ordeyne
and deuise them, and as god send you
parte of heuen as ye haue deseruyd in
the erth that ye wyll receyue this his let-
ter, and make hym an answer, and a-
lonely with this reward ye may rede me
hym, and therby do away his debilitie, &
mynish his torment, and fauor his sy-
kenes, and bryng e hym in to that state,
that he wyll desyre no more welth, nor
endure no more payne, and if ye wyll
not thus moch do for hym, to whom ye
are so moch bounde, not at my request,
I maye then well repute you cruell, but
I hope so moche in your vertue, that
accordyng to your olde custome, ye can
do no thyng but vertue, & K. R. P.

CTch


The answere of Laureola
to the Auctor.

The perseuerance in thy pursuot
bryngeth me to so streyght a ca-
se, that many tymes my thought dothe
dought what to do, other to banyshe the
out of this lande, or els to Jeobarde
my fame, in gouynge the place a leysure
to say what thou lyst, yet I am agreyd
not so to do, nor to put the to that extre-
myte, by reason of the compassyon that
I haue of the: for though thyne ambal-
cade be euill yet thyne entensyō is good
as to fynde remedy for y^e sorowfull. And
the other way I wyl not take by cause
of myne honor, for he can not be deleu-
red fro payne, without I be defamed. yf
I coulde remedye his euill withoute
daunger or blottypng myne honour, I
wold do it with no lesse affectyon, then
thou desyrest: but thou knowest well
how that womē are bound to preserue
theyr good fame, rather then theyr lyfe.
at the lest they shuld esteeme it more then
theyr

the ten
dichthe
honour.

theyr bountie: for though the lyfe of
triano shulde synne by death, yet w
ge thy selfe, whether I ought rather
be pytefull to my selfe, or to his euill.
And yf all women oughte thus to do
then specially suche as be of noble bl
de ought so to do, for all people soone
regardeth a small spotte in noble per
sons, then a great fault in lowe perso
nages. Therefore in thy wordes confer
me the to reason, for thy demaunde i
vniust: I thou thinkst I am pleased wit
thy cōpyng, whiche is cōt. ary, though
thy demaunde trouble me, yet thy con
dytion pleaseth me, & I haue pleasour
to shewe the myne excuse with iust rea
sons, to saue me fro charge, blame, an
sclaundre. The letter that I thou wouldest
haue me to receyue may wel be excusyd
for my defence is of no lesse power, than
the perceuraunce of his hope, but syns
thou hast brought it, I am pleasyd to r
ceyue it, but hope not of any answer, tra
uay. I no more to desyre it, nor at lest sp
k

24
of Le
yet iud
ather to
euill.
s to do,
ble blo
sooner
ble per
e perso
confer
unde is
ed with
though
by cons
easoure
ust reas
ne, and
wouldest
excusyd
er, than
ut syns
yd to re
uer, tra
lest spe
ke

ke no more therof lest that my displea-
sure trouble the not to moche, as thou
nowe prayest my pacience and sufferyn-
ge I blame my selfe, and that in two
thyngs, because I comon so longe with
the. The one is because the qualyte and
heate of the cause hath brought me in
trouble. The other is because I mayste
thynke that I am welpleasyd to speke
with the in this mater, and byleuest
howe I shuld agre to Lariano though
thou thynke so I haue no meruayll, for
wordes is the I mage of the herte. So
thy waye, content the wth thyne owne
Iudgement, and carpe with the good
hope, of that thou desyrest, & not to be
codempned in thyne owne thought: for
yf thou retuine agayne to make newe
request, thou wylte repent it. I wyl ad-
uise the let this be the laste speakynge
of that matter or els thou mayste well
knowe thou shall repent it, for sekynge
remedy for another, shalte fayle reme-
dy for thy selfe. 

¶ The

¶ The Auctor.

The wordes of Aureola dyd bring
me in to great confusyon, for when
I thought best to vnderstand her, then
I knew lest of her wyll: when I had
most hope, then I was farthest out of
way. And when I thought my selfe
most sure, then I was in most feare for
þe dyuerlyte of her. Iesure & behauour
blyndyd myne vnderstandynge. The
receyving of the letter satisfied me, but
the ende of her wordes put me in dys-
payre, so that I know not what way to
folow, nor how I shuld fynd any hope.
And thus as a man without counsayll,
I departed fro her, & went to Aleriano
thynkyng to geue hym some counsayll
& to seeke þe best meanes that I coulde de-
uise to remedy parte of his euyl, & when
I came to hym I sayd as foloweth.

¶ The auctor to Aleriano.

If the expedicio that I bring, ye
maye well knowe where wyres
sayle, diligence can not preuayll. I thou-
dyd

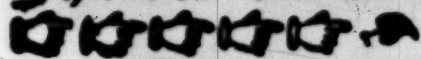
25.
dyddest recomaunde thy remedy to me,
but fortune hath bene to me so contrary,
in that she wolde not be to me so fauou-
rable, as to satysfye me in any thyng
that is passyd, but fortune is rather my-
ne enemye. Though in this case I had
good excuse to ayde the, for though I
was the messenger, thyne was the besy-
nes. The matter that I haue passyd
with Laureola I can not vnderstande
it nor can not shew it, bycause it is of so
newe and dyuers condycions, a thou-
sande tymes I thought to haue ben at
the poynte, to haue gyuen the remedye.
And agayne as often, to haue gyuen
the thy sepulture: all tokens of her wyll
(wonne and banquished) I saw in her
countenaunce, all the folys she froward-
nes of women without loue, Iudgeinge
vpon her demeanour. I was ioyfull, &
herynge her wordes, I was sorowfull.
Somtyme I thought she dyd prudent-
ly dissymule, and agayne I thought she
wentyd loue, but synally when I sawe

D.1.

her

her so moueable & chaungeable, I bele
uyd then verily that there was no loue
in her for yf a persone be taken wth loue
the harte shall be constante, and where
as loue lacketh, there is mutabyltye. On
the other parte I thought she dyd it for
fere of the cruell herte of the king her fa
ther what shall I say she hath receyued
thy letter, & monyshed me to the deth, yf
I speke any further i the cause, beholde
now this greuous case, There semyth
in one poynte. ii. differences, yf I shuld
shew the all that was passyd bytwene
her & me, I shulde want tyme to speke
it. I requyre the enforce thy wytte and
alwage thy passion, for in folowynge thy
payne, thou hast moze neede of a sepultu
re then of comforte: for withoute thou
take some repose, thou shalt leue here
thy bones, in stede of thy true saythe,
the which thou oughtest not to do: for
satisfyeng of thy self, it were moze con
uenient for the to lyue rather then to
dye, for to be out of payne. This I say,
bycaw

bycause I se the glorye in thy payne,
but in sufferynge payne, thou mayst at-
tayne to the crowne of laude and pray-
se. In that it maye be sayde, that thou
enforcest thy selfe to suffre payne for the
ladyes sake. Suche as be stronge & ver-
tuous in theyr grettyll myffortune, shew
we grattell herte. There is no differen-
ce bytwene the good and euill, without
the bountie be tempte and prouyd. Con-
syder that with longe lyfe, a thyng
maye be wonne: haue good hope in thy
fayth. Thynke that the purpose of Lau-
reola maye chaunge, and thy serme sted-
fast loue neuer. I wyll not saye all that
I thynke for thy consolacion, for I per-
ceyue by thy weppynge and complaynt,
that ardent death hath lyghtened his
flames, but what soeuer thou thynkest
that I can do for the, comaunde it: for
I haue no lesse wyll to serue the, then
I haue to remedie thy helth.



Meriano to the auctoz.

D.ii.

The

The dif
ference be
tweene li
berte &
thraldo.

The disposiciō that I am in, thou
seest. The priuasion of my vnder
standyng thou knowest, & turba
cion of my tongue thou mayst well no
te & merke: therfore haue no meruayle
though myne answer be more with
wepyng, then with ornat wordes, by
cause & Laureola putteth fro her herte
the swete appetyte of my wyll, the thyn
ges that be paste bytweene the and her
for all that thou art at thy lyberte, yet
thy iugement can not vnderstande her
meanynge, how shuld I then know the
for I am so passioned: than I can not
lyue but alonely to prayse her beautie &
to repute my last ende happye. I wolde
these shuld be the last wordes of my lyfe
bycause they be to praise her, what gret
ter welthe can I haue then & yf I were
so happy to be rewarded therewith, as
I deserue by reason of & payne that I
suffre. who then shuld be lyke me: better
it were for me to dye, syns I haue seruid
her, the to lyue causyng her to haue any
trouble

trouble or dyspleasour. The thyng that
 most shall greue me, is when I dye that
 the eyen shall peryshe that hath seen
 her, and the harte that remembreth her
 The which cōsyderyng what she is, all
 my wyttes are past, the ordre of reason.
 I say thus bycause thou seyst, that in
 the warkes of my harte in steade of
 faynteloue, my stedfast loue eucreaseth
 yf in my captiue harte the consolaciōs
 could take any scruple. This that thou
 hast done to me, suffyleth to enforce me
 but as the hearyng of them that be in he
 uynes and lockyd in passyō, in to whose
 soule can entre no wordes of comforte,
 and where thou seyst I shuld suffre no
 ne euill, Gyue me the strength therto,
 and I shall put to my good wyll. As
 for thynges of honoz that thou shewest
 me I know them by reason, and I deny
 them agayne by the same reason: I
 say I know them, for a man fre in liber
 te, shuld vse honoz, and agayne I deny
 it, as concernyng to my selfe: yet I seke

In my greuous paine to chose an honourable death. The trauayll that thou hast receyued for my sake, and the desyre that I see thou hast to deliuer me from payne, byndeth me to offre for the my lyfe as often as it were nedefull. But syns there is but small lyfe left in me, take for satisfaction my desyre, & not my power: yet I requyre the (syns this shall be the fynall good dede, that thou canst do for me, & y^e last that I shall receyue) as to bere fro me another letter to Laureola, with suche newes as she shall be gladde of, and wherby she shall knowe howe I dispose me to passe out of this transytory lyfe, and no more to trouble her: & to the entent that with good wyll thou shuldest beare it to her, I wyll begyn it in thy presence, wherof the matter shall be as foloweth

The letter of Aleriano the lover,
to Laureola beloued.

Syns that the sepulture is the rewarde of all myne euylles, I am
redy

honou
t thou
e desy
me fro
the my
l. But
me, ta
not my
s shall
u canst
ceyue)
o Lau
hall be
knowe
of this
rouble
d wyl
yll be
e ma
uer,
he res
I am
redy

redy nob to receyue it, beleue that death
shall not displease me, for he is of small
wytte that abhorreth that thyng that
gyueth lybertie/ but one thyng displea
seth me that is dyenge, I shall lose all
my hope euer to se you agayne, the whi
che sore greueth me. It may be sayd in
so shorte a space as I haue ben youre
seruaunt, howe shulde I so soone lose
my payntance: ye ought not to meruayll
therat, for I hope I ye haue brought me
in, and small comforte, with my great
passion, suffyleth to put awaye and to
destroy greater force, then myne, yet I
can not beleue, that ye are cause therof,
withoute youre workes do certifie the
same, but alwayes I haue beleued that
your condycion pyteous, shuld surmount
your obstynat wyl, but syns ye wyl that
my lyfe shal receiue this damage, I fau
te therof is myne owne myffortune, I
am sore abashed that ye sorowe not in
your self, your owne ingratitude. I ha
ue gyue you my lybertie, & it yerly haue
gyuen

He seeth
that her
ingratitu
de.

gyuē you my harte, nothyng retaynyng
to my selfe: for all that, I can haue no
rewarde of loue, yet I desyre to serue
you. Who wold thynke that ye shulde
dystroy that thyng that is your owne
certeynly ye are your owne enemy with
oute ye fende some remedy to saue me.
This ye ought to do, or els ye cōdemne
your selfe, for my deth & perdyccion can
not profyght you. But I desyre that ye
wold sorowe for myne euyl: yet yf your
sorow shuld do you any payne, then I
desyre it not, syng that lyuyng I neuer
dyd ye seruyce. It were no ryght that
dyeng I shuld cause you to haue trou-
ble. They that loke agaynst the sonne,
& more they regard it, the blynder they
be. And so the more I remember your
fayrenes, the blynder is myne vnder-
standyng. This I say to thentent that
of this my rude wytyng ye shuld haue
no meruayll, for in the hard case that I
am in, accordyng to my wyll, I am bet-
ter dysposed to ende my lyfe, then to
make

make any reasones: yet I wolde that
thyng that ye ought to regarde, were so
orderyd that ye shulde not occupye your
bnderstandyng on a thyng so fayre fro
your condycion. Yf ye consent that I
shall dye bycause ye wolde haue it pu-
blyshed, ye haue the pover to flee me,
then be ye euyl counceyled, for without
hope your beautie hath certified me
therof. And yf ye este me my death to be
good, bycause I am not worthy to re-
ceyue your grace, the whiche I haue
hopyd to wyne by reason of my trewe
fayth, and I lese for lacke of deseruy-
nge, and with this thought I thynke to
suffre all my payne. And yf it seme to
you that the paynes that I endure for
your sake, can not be remedyed, with-
out offēce to your honour. Thynke that
I wyll neuer desyre that thyng, that
shuld turne you to blame: what profy-
te shuld any thyng do to me that shul-
de be euyl to you. Alonely I desyre your
answere: for my fyyste and laste rewar-

de and to be brieſe, I requyre you, ſyn
you make an ende of my lyfe: yet at leſt
honour my death, for in the place where
as deſperate ſoules becometh: yf there
be any welth. There I deſyre, to feale
none other ioye, but that ye wyll honou
re my deed bones, that I may ioye a ly
tell with that great glory.

¶ The auctoz.

The wordes and letter of Lelian
fyniſhed, In ſted of wordes myne
eyen were ſatysfied, with greate we-
pyng, & ſo withoute power to ſpeke, I
departyd, thynkyng my iudgemēt that
it ſhuld be the laſt tyme that I had any
hope to ſe hym agayne a lyue. And as I
was on my way I wrote a ſuperſcripti
on vpon the letter, to the entente that
Laurcola ſhuld be in doubt fro whence
it came. And when I came in to her pre
ſence, I deliuered her the letter, who be
leuyng that it had come from ſome o-
ther perſone, receyued it and began to
rede it. And all the ſeaſon that ſhe was
reſyng

redynge, I regardyd still her bylage,
when she had made an ende, I sawe
well she was sore troubled, as though
she had sufferyd a great euill / yet the
regardynge of her turbacion, excusyd
not my trouble. Then to assure my selfe
I demaundayd of her other questyons
no thyng concernynge to that purpose.
And to deliuer her selfe fro companye,
the whiche in such case is peryllous, lest
that the manifest mutations discover
net the secreete thoughtes of the herte.
Therefore she withdrew her selfe a parte
and all that nyght she was withoute
spekyng of any word to me, as touchyn
ge that purpose. And the next daye she
sent for me and shewed me many vertu
ous reasons to discharge her selfe fro
any thyng consentynge to relese þ payne
of Aleriano, howbeit she sayde that she
thought great in humanitye to lese such
a man as Aleriano, for so small a pryce,
as in wrytyng of a letter, howbeit in þ
redynge of his letter I take but small ple

A pryce
means
suerdyng
the imp
ment of
pleasure.

D.iii.

four.

loure. Therfore here I haue wyrtten a
letter, not with a pleasaunt and swete
wordes, as he in his reasons: for who so
euer here the wordes in this my letter,
may well knowe þat I haue lytle studied
in the arte of eloquence. So for shame
fastnes sodenly her face was inflamyd,
and as sodenly agayne pale. She was so
sore alteryd and thorte wyndyd, that
in maner she bzyethed for the death, her
herte and voyce so sore trembled, that
her discrecion coulde not enforce her sel
fe to speake, therfore her answer was
thorte, and also the place requyred no lo
ger tyme. So she toke me the letter, &
kyste her hande, and I receyued it. The
tenour wherof ensuyth.

The letter fro Laurcola beloued
to Lariano the louer.

The cau
se of the
letter.

The death that thou lokest for, by
reason of thy payne, I haue ra
ther deseruyd it, yf I shuld put my wyll
to thynne: but that is not so, for this my
wyrtynge, is moze to rideme thy lyfe,
then

then to satiffye thy desyre, what shuld it
profyte me to accomplishe it, for yf I
were accusyd therof, I coude haue no
wytnesse to saue me, but alonely my
pure entensyon, whiche is so pryncpall
a partie, that his wordes shuldenot be
taken nor be beleued. And with this fe-
re, I haue put to my hande to this pa-
per, my herte and mynde beyng in hea-
uen makynng hym iudge of my mynde,
to whom the trouthe of all thynges is
manifest and knowen. The cause why
that I doubted to answer the, was by
cause without my cōdempnacion thou
canst not be assoyled, as thou mayst wel
se: for though no creature knowe of this
letter, but thy selfe and the berer: yet I
knowe not what iudgement, any of you
may make vpon me, though it be but
good, yet I am spotted with y suspecte
therof. Therfore I desyre the, whē thou
hast sene myne answer, remembre the
fame and renome of her that hath sent
it, of this I hertely desyre the, for often
tymes

the point
of, god.

honour
is to be
preser-
ued befo
re pte.

tymes suche fauours are publyshed, for
some haith more regarde to the victoꝝ
then to honoure of them that sheweth
such fauour. And whether it were bet-
ter for me to be blamed for crueltie, or
to be spotted or defamyd for beyng to
pyteous. I repute me to thy selfe: & yet
to gyue the some remedy, I bese now the
contrary, thou hast that thou desyrest/
& I that I feare, I requyre the to turne
and wynde, and kepe secreete my letter
in thy remembraunce, for yf thou do be-
leue it, then it nede not to be sene: for þ
I haue wyten yf it were sene, it shulde
be thought that I loue the, and yf thou
beleue, the reasons that I haue sayd to
be spoken rather by dissymulaciō, then
of trouthe / then arte thou begyled, in
that beleue, for it is clene contrary, for
surely I say them rather with a pyte-
ous entencion, then with any amorous
entent. And to cause the to beleue this,
I wolde further extende my wordes, yf
I had leysour. But to put the into none
other

other suspicion, I make an ende of my
letter, and to the intent that my workes
shulde receyue, a iust rewarde, thus wyl
I endure my lyfe dayes.

The auctor.

When I had receyued this letter of
Laureola I departed to go to Le-
riano, thynkyng then to haue with me
some company to ayde me in the glozy
of myne ambassade, and to encourage
therby Leriario, I called then to me þ
greatest enemyes that we had before,
as cōtētacion, hope, rest, plesour myrth
and comforte. I toke these with me for
feare that þ keepers of the pryson wolde
resist & defende me the entre. **W**herfore
I thought to go in ordre of batayl: and
when I came to the heyght of an hygh
hyll, I had a syghte of the pryson, then
I dysplayed my baner all of grene / so
that our enemyes toke them to þ flight
in suche wyse that he that fledde fastest
thought to be nexte the ieoperdye. And
when Leriola harde this great rumour
not

The ac-
mour as
garnish
loue.

Rest,
in the
vaward

hope &
comfort

not knowynge what it was, he came to
a wyndowe of the towre, & spake more
with wekenes of spirite, the with hope
of socour, and when he saw me comyng
in batayll with such a goodly company
then he knewe what the mater ment, &
what for his feblenes, & for his sodayne
ioye, losse his fealyng, and fell downe
in a traunce in the house, where he was
And when I came to þe steyres wher on
I was wont to mounit, **Rest**, auauuncyd
to marche on befoze, who gaue clerenes
& chasyd awaye all the darkenes of the
towre, and when I came to hym & saw
hym in that mort al maner, I feared I
came soone ynough to wepe, and to la-
te to gyue hym remedy. Then wth great
dyligence, hope slept to hym, and cast a
lytell water of comforte in his face, and
therwith he returned agayne to hym
selfe, and the better to strength hym, I
delyuered hym Laureolas letter. And
all the season that he redde it, all suche
as I brought with me procured for his
helth

33
helth, Myrth gaue ioy to his herte: rest
comforted his spirites, hope broughte
hym in to good remembraunce. Concen-
tacion cleryd his ypen. Comforte resto-
ryd his helthe and strenght. Pleasure
quykenyd his vnderstandynge: they
treated hym in suche wyse, that when
he had redde ouer the letter, he was all
hole, as though he had neuer felte pas-
sion, and when he sawe that my dilygen-
ce gaue hym lybertie, he toke me often-
tymes in his armes, offeryng hym selfe
to be myne, & thought that but a small
rewarde, for the deservyng of my ser-
uice. His offers were to me in suche ma-
ner, that I wiste not howe to answer
hym, as I oughte to haue done accor-
dyng to his degre, and after that ma-
ny thynges were passyd bytwene hym
and me. He thynkyng somewhat to re-
creat spirites and reioyse his sorowfull
herte as well for gladnes of his comforte,
as to aduoyde dyuers fantasies that
myghte happen to haue comen to his

The Des-
ce of the
sayd fel-
de agas-
rnselos
uc.

Row.

E.i.

Corod-

doubtfull mynde to be a base lute, whiche on the one syde had this poysey wyrtten, (My death causeth by absens,) and on the other syde was wyrtten (shal be redempyd with presens) & played this Conge or Balade folowynge.

Welcom solace, welcom comforte
welcom ioye, welcom myne ease
welcom the socoure, that doth transpoynte
And brynge helth, for my disease
The thyng is welcom, that doth appease
My care sorowe, and my burrest
And welcom her sonde that I loue best.

Blyssed be the hande, that dyd wyrtte
Blyssed be pen, that made the letter
And blyssed be the memory that dyd indygyse
And blyssed be the paper, and the messenger
And blyssed be they, that do transset
My care sorowe, and my burrest.

Welcom myrth, vnto my harte
welcom hope, that shall not departe
welcom pleasure, vnto my syghtes
welcom my comforte, that dayly syghtes
agaynst

34
Agaynst care sorowe, and all burdest
And welcom her sonde, that I loue best.

And in the meane season he concludyd
And determyned to go to the court
but fyrste. &c.

Dherte full of payne
The whiche to sustayne
Do me restayne
In this lyfe mortall.

For death scertayne
Wyll helpe the agayne
And of all this payne.

To medycyne pryncypall.

For thou mayst be sure
It can not longe endue
Without some helpe and cure

O when that plesant death.

To the shall resorte
Vnto thy comforte
And thy payne transporte

In takynge awaye thy brette

The lyfe that is yll
Death desyre wyll

It selfe for to spyll

To put awaye his payne

E.H.

The

The lyfe that is defaced
with deatly wolde be pleased
His sorowes to haue pease d
wherin he doth remayne.

A herte with sorowe inwardly
Turmented continually
And luyng for to dye
In this lyfe mortall.

To hym selfe alone
Doth thynke sorowe care and mone
To be to hym all one
And vnto death dernal.

Then we wente to a towne of his,
and taried there a certayne sea-
son to recouer his strength, and to new
apparel hym agayne he shuld go to the
courte. And when he saw his tyme, he
set forth on his iourney. And when his
comynge was knelwen in the courte, ma-
ny greute lordes and yonge courtiers
went to receyue hym, but he toke more
consolacion of his secreete glory, then of
all the open honour that was done to
hym. Thus he was nobly accompanyd
to

35
to the palace, and his due tie done to the
kyng, he kyst the hande of Laurealo,
wherin was many thynges to be noted
and specially to me who knew the ma-
ter, bytwene them. The one was ouer-
come with very great trybulacion, the
other faylyd coloure. He wyl not what
to saye, nor she to answer, suche force
hath þe passyons of loue, alwayes it dra-
weth the wylt & dyscrecyō downe vnder
his baner. þe which I saw there by cleere
experyence. And thought that no man
sawethey demancur, nor had no sus-
pecte bytwene them: yet Persio lone
to the lord of Cania behelde them and
was as farre in loue, as Aleriano was
And by reason that all Ielous suspecte
disordereth all thynges secrete, he regar-
ded ouer their wordes & cōtenaunces, in so
moche þe he gaue ful credēce to his owne
suspect, & gaue not alonely fayth to þe he
saw, þe which was nothing, but also be-
leuyd it surely in his ymagynaciō, & wyl
þe wyl thought of ielosity, it outdelybera

The me-
ryng: of
the pers
tyes.



Wille.

**The say
med auctu
Cement.**

**Laureo
la to pry
son.**

tion of couſapill, he fyndig the kyng in a
ſecrete place, ſayd to hym (after myng þ
Laureola & Meriano lound to gyther)
how that he hadde ſeen them togyther
byuerſe nyghtes, when the kyng was
a bedde, ſapeng how he ſhewed this for
the honour and ſeruyce, that he bare to
the kyng. The kyng then beyng ſore
troublyd w those newes was in great
doubte, and ſtudyed long of he was de-
termyned to anſwere. And after he had
ſlepte on the mater, he byleurd Perſius
ſayenge to be true, conſyderyngh his ver-
tue and auctorytie, he wolde ſhewe no
thyng, but of trouthe. Then the kyng
determynd what he wold do, and ther
vpon he ſent his doughter Laureola in
to a towre to pryſon, and then ſente for
Perſio, and commaundyd hym to ac-
cuſe Meriano of treaſon, accordynge to
his lawes, of the whiche comāundemēt
he was ſore abaſhed, but the heate of
the buſynes enforſyd hym to graunt it.
Then he acceptyd the kynges comāun-

des.

36
dement and sayd, howe he thanked god
that he was offeryd such a case, that his
handes myghte beare wytnesse of his
bounte and vertue: and bycause that in
Guallo suche deades were accustomed
to be done, by wyptynge, and not by the
kyngs presence by wordes, therfore Ber
sius sent a wyptynge to Leriano with in
the reasons as ensue.

Bersius wyptyng to Leriano.

Syns that of good workes, proce
deth vertuous renome and fame
it is a iuste thynge that euylmes
be chastysed, to thentent that vertue
may be maynteynyd, and with greute
dylgencce bounte ought to be exaltpd.
So that the enemyes therof when ther
wylfull operacions be to þe contrary, they
ought to be constrayned to vse bountie
for dread and feare of punyshement. I
say this to the Leriano, for the payue
that thou shalt receyue, for the trespase
that thou hast comytted, shalbe a chas
tysement to the, and an ensample for al

¶. iiii.

other

The roll
some of
the count
tree.

Unto a
diction
of the sa
tyde man
ter.

Wells
parish of
the said
manor.

**A Church
made of
his and
scour**

**The arc
of his**

other to feare, for yf such thinges shuld
be pardoned, and leste unpunished, by
lany shulde then be no lesse fauouryd in
them þ do euyl then nobles in them þ
be good. Certainly euyl hath it profited
þ, all the gentlines and honeste of thy ly-
nage, who gaue the ensample to folow
bounte, and thou folowest the workes
of treason, thy progenytours bones
wold be redy to ryse against the yf they
knew how thou defolyst (with suche
errour (they) noble dedes, therfore now
is the tyme come that for thyne euyl
dedes, thou shalt receyue the ende of
thy lyfe, and defoyll thy fame. Cursyd
be all suche as thou art, that canste not
chose an honourable lyfe, and thou not
regardynge thy scrupce nor duetie to
thy kyng. To be so bolde woute shame
as to fal in loue with Laureola the kyn-
ges daughter, with whom withoute
shame, thou hast spoken dyuers tymes
alone, after the kynges beynge a bedde
not folowynge the clere lynage, by whi-
che

the reason I appele the as a traptoure,
and vpon that quarell I thynke to see
the, or els to dyue the out of the felde,
or els to cause the to confesse with thy
mouth my sayeng to be true, the which
as longe as the world endureth shalbe
an ensample of my truth. And thus I
seue, trusting to proue thy falsenes, and
to verifie my trueth, chose thou the ma-
ner of our batayle & armur, & on þe kny-
ges parte I shall make the assurance,

The answer of Lariano.

More shalbe my myfortune, then
thy malice withoute the faulte
that thou chargest me withall of falses-
nes shall gyue vnto the payne by iustyce
acordyng to thy deserte: if thou were
as discrete as thou art euill in escheu-
eng of suche peris. First thou shouldest
haue knowen myne entension, or thou
haddest gyuen sentence vpon my wor-
kes, but now I knowe by the that thou
semyst better then thou arte in dede. I
thoughte surely to haue comoned with

E. b.

the

**The ap-
pels.**

**Conclu-
sion.**

**The p-
hous of
the late
rat.**

**The arg-
ument.**

**The de-
fence of
reason.**


K

the as with my frende, hauinge confi-
dence in thy vertue, but nowe thou shew-
est thyne euill condicion, lyke as here
before thou shewdest thy bountie with
frendly amytie, in lyke wyse now thou
discouerest thy falshood, wherefore I cau-
sest enuyte bytweene vs: or I may say by
reason, enemye to thy selfe for by thyne
owne witnesse thou leuyst the good me-
mory of thy lyfe with infamy, and shalt
ende thy life with shame, why hast thou
put thy serpentyn tongue vpon Lauro-
la, whose alonely bountie sufficeth, that
yf bountie were lost thoroughout all the
worlde, it myght be recoveryd & founde
in her. Thou maynteynest a clere falshe-
hode, and I shall defende a iuste cause,
and shall deliuer & discharge her fro all
fautes, and shall charge thyne honoure
with shame. I wyl not answer thyne
vnmesurable wordes: for I repute it a
more honest way, to vanquish the þ with
my handes rather then to satisfie þ with
wordes. I desyre no thynge, but alonely
to

to come to the case to trye our debate.
Thou accusyst me of treason affyrmyng
geho to I haue ben diuers tymes in the
secrete chambze with Laureola after y
kynges beyng a bedde, & at his rest as
well to the one as to the other. I say y
falselyst: yet I denye not but that I
haue regarded her beaurie with an a-
mourous desyre. But though the force
of loue orde the thoughts, yet y vertue
of reouth causeth, clenlynes of honeste,
I wold be glad to haue her fauour, but
for one euill thoughte. And moreouer
I shall defende the quarell, and say that
I alone neuer enteryd into her secrete
chambze, nor neuer spake wordes of lo-
ue to her: so that when the entensyon se-
myth not, the Iudgemēt then shulde al-
wayes be hole withoute defoymte.
And syns the determynacion hereof can
not be without death of one of vs, and
not determyned with our tonges, ther-
fore let vs leue raylyng to our tonges
and abyde vpon the day of our sentence
the

The an-
swere.

The des-
troye of
the at-
tours.

the which I truste in god shall be for my
profyte, and honour to Laureola, and
shame and rebuke to the, because thy
deedes of malice: & I to defende by rea-
son, the trouth shall be determined by
iustice. The armure that we shall chose
shall be all of peaces accordyng to the
custome of our countree. Our horses
bardyd with lyke speares and boordes
and with any other armure or weapyn
that is vsyd, with the whiche I truste
to sleethe, or to cause the to dreye, that
that thou hast sayde, or els to chaste the
out of the felde. 

The auctor.

Thus the euill fortune enuyous, of
the welch & prosperite of Lariano
brynge agaynst hym her naturall cha-
geable condycion, gaue hym a toine,
whan she sawe hym in his moste pro-
sperite: whose myfortune to be holde,
was great passion, and constrained the
heres to peyne. Thus leuynge to speke of
this trouble. After Lariano had an-
swered

37
Swored Pertius letter, the kynge knowynge the covenaut of this batayll assigned the felde, where the batayll shuld be determyned, & all thynges necessary was ordeyned, that perteyned to suche deades, accordinge to the custome of that countree. And on a day the kynge went to his stage & the knyghtes came in to the felde, eche of them accompanied as they were favoured, & as they had deserved, savinge the fequalnes of both parties honours. They were lyke broughte into the felde, so they (after theyr reverence done to the kynge) ranne eche at other, so that by the force of theyr strookes, they shewed the vertue of theyr hertes. And theyr speres broken at theyr fyrste encounter: then they drew the swordes, and foughte so feerly, that it was meruayle to beholde theyr deades and compassion for that they sufferyd. And to be bryefe in this hystoie, Arianio in gnyng his heuye strokes, at a stroke stras-

the dape
of the
battall

the la
capit.

The re-
quest of
persius
frendes.

strake of Persius right hande, so that
it fell to the erthe, sword and all. When
Aeriano saw how that Persio had lost
the best parte of his defence (sayd) Persio
to the intent that thy lyfe pay not his
deute. for thy fallenes, reneye that thou
hast sayde. Then Persio sayde: do as
i thou oughtest to do, though myn arme
fayle me to defende, yet my herte fayleth
not to dye. Aeriano heyring that answere
represyd to hym, and gaue hym many
sharpe & heuy strokes. And when Per-
sius frendes sawe hym in ieoperdy of
his lyfe they requyryd the kynge to call
downe his batone, assuryng hym that
Persio shuld be brought forth to abyde
suche iugement as it shulde please hym,
yf he were founde culpable and gyltye.
To the which requeste the kynge condis-
ceded, and so they were departed, wher-
with Aeriano was sore agreuyd, and
not withoute good reason. For he had
great meruayll, why the kynge delte so
with hym. Then they were conuayed
out

out of the felde with lyke Ceremonyes/
howbeit, they were not lyke in fame &
honour. So they were brought to their
lodgynges, and there tarped all nyght.
The next day in the mornynge, Acriano
determined to go to the place to desyre
the kyng in presence of all his court to
restore his honour, & to do upon Persio
ryghtwoyse iustyce. But Persio, who
was malycyous of his condycyon, and
Sharpe wytted, to the intent þ he myght
by some meanes attayne to his purpose,
whyles þ Acriano spake w the kyng, he
callyd to hym .iii. false men lyke to his
own condicions, & toke theyr othe for þ
he shuld shew them. To the which they
agreyd. Then he gaue to them moche
money, so that they shuld say, and swere
to the kyng that they had sene Acriano
spekyng w Laureola in places suspect,
and in tyme dyshonest: which they pro-
feryd to asserme, and to swere it, to the
lesyng of theyr lyues. I leue to speke of
the doloure that Laureola sufferyd, by
cause

¶ fute
ther con
spiracie

cause the passion shulde not trouble so
my wytte, but that I myght make an
ende of that I haue begon, for I haue
no lesse payne to remembre her sorowes
beyng absent, then as though I were
present, and saw it with myne eyes: but
I wyl turne to Lariano, who had mo
re sorowe for her prisonemet, then glory
of his victorie. When he knew that the
kyng was ryson he went to the palayce
& in the presence of the knyghtes of the
courte he sayd to the kyng as foloweth.

Lariano to the kyng.

Lariano
stateth
so the
kyng.

Syr of suertie with better wyll I
wolde haue sufferyd the chaunce
ment of your Iustyce, then the shame
to haue come to your presence, yf I had
not attained yesterdaye the better of
the batayll: The which yf ye had taken
well, I shuld haue bene cleane quyte and
delyueryd from the false accusation of
Persio, for in the syghte of enery man
I shuld haue gyuen hym the rewards
that he deseruyd, It is great difference

to

to haue power to do a thyng, and to do
it in dede. Great auantage ye shewed
hym, the reason why, I can nother thin
ke nor ymagyne. Ye commaunded to de-
parte vs, and specially syns our debate
touched your self so nere, as he shulde
desyre to be reuēged for the loue of Lau-
reola, lyke a pyrefull father, & I beleue
well that as now ye be well satisfied,
of her discharge and ygnorance. And
syns yf ye dyd it for compassion, ye had
of Persio, ye ought as iustely to haue
regarded myne honour, as well as his
lyfe seyng I am your naturall subget
And yf ye dyd it by reason of the inpor-
tunate sute of some of his frendes, ye
ought as well to haue remembryd the
seruyce that I & myne haue done you,
syns ye knowe w what constauce of hart,
many of them in dyuerse bateyls haue
loste in your seruyce theyr lyues, whiche
none of them haue done the .iiij. parte.
Therefore syns I requyre you that by in-
stice ye wyl satisfye the honour that I

request.

I. i.

haue

haue wonne with my handes. Syr kepe your labours yf ye thynke to conserue youre naturall subiectes, no: syr consent not, that so false a man, shuld lyue that keppe so euill preeminence of his predecessours, to the entent that his benygne do not corrupte them, that be his parte takers. Certaynly I am culpable in no thynge, but in that I haue ben so good a frende, to my wrongfull accuser, and yf for this I haue deserued payne, let me haue it, yet my clere innocency shall assoyle me. I haue cōseruyd his ampte, beleuyng he had ben good and not iudgyng his euill no: falsenes. If ye suffre hym to serue you, I say he shalbe the metest seruaunt to make dyscorde and lyes, that shalbe in all your courte. Syr remember in youre selfe howe ye be bound to do ryght to euery man. Wherfore determyne this cause with prudence, and gyue sentence with your accustomed iustice. Syr the thynges of honour ought to be clere, and yf
ye

ye perdon hym foꝛ any request: though
it be by the pryncypall of your Realme
oꝛ foꝛ any other thyng at your pleasur
I wyll not then abyde the iudgement
of dyuers of youre men, to be taken as
clene discharged. foꝛ though some be
leue the trowth by reason, yet some wyll
be troubled, and saye the worst. And
though in your realme, the trowth be
not knowen, yet comenlye the fame of
the trowth by reason of the fauoure of
partie wyll not be borne farre of so that
I can not be clene discharged out of all
mennes fantasyes, yf this man scape
without open penythement. Syꝛ foꝛ
goddes sake sette myne honoure with-
out any disputacion, and as foꝛ my lyfe
oꝛ deyne at your pleasure.

¶ The auctor.

The sayeng of Aleriano, the kyn-
ge gaue good entent, and answer-
ed that he wolde take counseyll what
was best to do, and sayde that in suche
a case deliberacion wold be take, oꝛ any

f. ij.

sentence.

The dys-
crepante
of men
iudging
iudgment

The res-
poste of
the kyn-
ges an-
swere.

sentence shuld be gyuen. Of trowth the
kynges answere, was not so swete, as
it ought to haue ben: for by that I sawe,
yf the kyng had put Laureola at her
lybertie, Lariano had endured no trou-
ble. For he thought to serue her, for all
that he was reputyd culpable, though he
his entent were clere without faulte.

Thus y kyng to eschewe the rumoure
and besynes that was lykely to fall by-
twene Larianos frendes, and Persius
comaūdyd Lariano to go to a towne of
his owne, a. ii. leages fro the courte cal-
led Sula, & there to tary tyll he had set
a direction in the mater. The whiche
Lariano dyd with a ioyfull herte, thyn-
kyng that Laureola was clerely dys-
chargyd, whiche was y thyng he moste
desyred. But then Persio who alwayes
traueyled to offende & to shame his ho-
noure & to defende it by malyce, he sent
for . ii. of his compyles, or Laureola
was delyuered & sayde to them: That
eche of them a parte shulde goo to the
kyng

The exa-
minaciō
of the
fourthe
accusaci-
on.

kyng, and of themſelfe to ſhewe hym,
how that the accuſacion of Verſio was
true and to bere wytnes that they had
ſene Meriano dyuers tymes ſpeke with
Laureola alone ſuſpectiouſly. The whi
che wytnes and affyrmacion, when the
kyng harde it, he was ſore troubled
therwith, and examyned eche of them
a parte by ſubtyl & ſharpe perſwaſiōs
to ſe yf they any thing ſwarued in their
ſayenges. But they were ſuche perſons
that yf a man ſhulde haue waſtyd all
his lyfe in falſenes, coulde not be lyke
them. They were ſo ſure of theyr wor-
des, the more they were examyned the
ſurelyer they fortifyed theyr falſe lyes.
So that therby the kyng gaue to their
falſe ſayenges, faythe and beleue. And
by reaſon of theyr informacion, the kyng
reputyd Verſio for trewe ſeruaunt and
belened that it was more by reaſon of
his fortune, rather then by his vntrewe
quarell, that he loſt the batayll. ¶ Ver-
ſio better it had ben for the to haue ſuf-

J. iij.

ſeryd

The exa-
minaci-
ons of
the wy-
tnes.



The ſub-
ſequent.

The kin
gys or-
der of
Laureo
la.

The ad-
visement
of the
auctor
to the p
rie.

feryd the death at one tyme, then to de-
serue so many death. So the kynge in
purpose to punyche the innocency of Lau-
reola, by reason of the treason of the
false wytnes, ordcynyd that his dought-
ter Laureola shulde haue the sentence
of iustyce. The whiche when it came
to the knowledge of Meriano, he was
therewith nere out of his wytte, & with
great fury and passion desperate, deter-
mynd to go to the Courte to delyuer
Laureola, and to see Versio, or els to
lese his owne lyfe in the quarell. And
when I sawe hym wyllynge to folowe
that fantasye, wherin was moze peryll
then hope. Then I desyred hym to wor-
ke saugely, and so by reason of the alte-
racion that he was in, he was i a great
perplexite. And whē I sawe hym stande
in such a dismayde traunce, I thought
then to serue hym with my counseyll, to
thentent he shuld not do that thyng in
haste, wherby to repent hym after. And
consyderynge the way that I thought
mooste

moste sure, I sayd to hym thus.

The auctor to L'eriano.

Sy I desyre you to be discrete to
thentent that I may prayse your
wytte, that I maye so deale to remedy
your euyl, that ye maye be ioyfull as I
desyre, and prayled as ye deserue. This
I say for the sage pacience that thou
shuldest shew in the tyme of thyne aduer
syte: for though I se well that thyne vn
derstandyng be occupied with passion:
yet thou shuldest consyder what thou
wylt do, and with what discrete know
lege. Thou shuldest rather folowe my
symple counsayll, then to put to excu
sion thy foresayde wyll. Thus thou
shuldest do by thyne owne naturall in
tysemente. Whiche haue I studyed on
that thou oughtest co do in this thy
great fortune: And accordynge to my
poze iudgement. The fyrst thyng to
accomplysh it for the, to take reste, the
lack therof troubleth the i this present
case. And after myne opynion thy fyrste

J. iiii. Deter:

The ho
le coun
seple to
desyre
L'autro
la.

determinacion shal be the last to put to
execuciō: for as thyne enterpryce is great
and weyghtye, accordynge therto, de-
muer delyberacion shulde be determy-
nyde or it were executyd alwayes in a
thyng doughtfull The most surest way
wolde be taken. And yf thou be disposed
to see Persio, or to delyuer Laureola.
C fyrste thou consyder by what wayes
thou mayste do it, and scape away with
both youre honours, for her honour is
moze to be esteemyd, then thy lyfe. For yf
thou canste not accomplishe thyne en-
terpryse, thou shalte leue her condemp-
nyd, and thy selfe dyshonouryd. Thou
knowyst that men workyth, and fortu-
ne iudgith. And yf thynges passe well,
thē they be prayser: yf they fortune euyl
then they be dyspraysed, and taken for
euyl. If thou delyuer Laureola thou
shalte be callyd valyaunt: yf thou assaye
and fayle, then thou shalte be reputyd
a sole. Tary here a. ix. dayes, for then
shalbe þe execuciō of the sentēce agaynst
Laureola

The tyme of re-
spite of
the coun-
tyl.

45
Laureola. In the meane season let vs
proue and assay al other remedies, that
any hope is in. And if we fynde no reme-
dy in that, then execute thyne entente,
though thou lose thy lyfe therby, yet it
shalbe to thyne honour and fame. One
thyng thou shouldest prouyde for, or
thou begynne, I putte case thou had-
dest now broken the pryson, and taken
oute therof Laureola, and caryed her
aboye, in to thyne owne lande: yet she
shoulde be comdempnyd and reputyd
culpable, and wher soeuer thou shouldest
sette her, yet she shulde suffre payne, the
which then shuld be greattre cruell, then
þy fyrste. Therfore þy best way as semeth
me is to do after this maner. I wyll go
in thy name to Galleo, brother to the
quene, who for parte desyreth þy deliue-
rance of Laureola, as moche as thy selfe
dost. And I shall shewe hym what is
thyne entent: and desyre hym (to the
entente he sholde bere no charge nor
blame) (that he wold be redy with a cer-

the worst
of all
ways
is to be
noted &
advised.

F.v.

rayne

take number of men, the same day that
thou shuldest do thyne enterpryse, that
yf thou fortune to gette Laureola oute
of prison. Then to put her in to his
handes in the presence of euery man, in
wytnes of his ignorance, and of thy clen
nes, and so he to receyue her tyll þe kyng
haue prouyd the trouth in euery thyng,
and to kepe her in his castell: wherby
this busines may come to a good ende
but as I haue sayde this waye muste
be the laste shote ancre. Therefore fyrste
I wyll go to the courte, and speke with
the cardynall of Gaule and with other
lordes and prelates that I can fynde
there. And I shall desyre them to speke
to the kyng, desyringe hym to graūt
Laureola her life. And if we fynde no re
medy i this, then I wyll desire þe quene
that she with all other ladyes and
honorable women of her courte and of the
citie to go to the kyng, and desyre par
don for her doughter. To whose we
pynges and petitions, I can not beleue
that

that pitie shalbe denyed. And yet if that
can not auayll: then I shall cause Lau-
reola to wyte to the kynge her father,
certifyenge hym of her innocency, and
yf all these wayes wyll not serue: then
shall I offre to the kynge that thou shalt
fynde a person that shall do deades of
armes agaynst those. iij. false witnesses
and if none of these wayes can preuayll
Then proue thy strength, and therby
peradventure thou shalt fynde the pite
in the kynge that thou sekest for. But
yet o? I departe me thynkyth I shuldest
wyte to Laureola in strengthnyng of
her feare, with suertye of her lyfe. The
whiche thou mayste well do: syns heuen
disposeth, that is wroughte vpon the
earth it can be none other wyse, but that
god wyll receyue the wepynges of inno-
centes, and thy iuste petycions.

[The aucto?]

So Meriano swaruyd no poynte
fro myne aduysse, bycause he
thought it the moste sure way, for the
expedition

expedytion of his purpose. Howbeit his herte was not sure: for he doughted lest the kynge in his yre shulde haue gyuen sentence vpon Laureola, or the daye came. Howbeit by the lawes of the lande she shulde haue. ix. dayes respyte. Thoughe his herte fearyd this it was no meruayll: for they that be true louers all that is contrary to them, they lightly beleue it. And that they desyre moste, thynke them selfe therof moste vncertaine. Howbe it he concludyd to wyte to Laureola with great dought, that she wolde not receyue his lettre. The tenour wherof was as foloweth.

The letter of Leriano
to Laureola.

Rather wolde I put my handes to rydde myne owne lyfe, then to begyn to wyte yf I knewe that my woorkes were cause of your pryson, as moche as myne euyl fortune is, the which is to me contrarye that it can not cause me to dye well. Whout I may saue you.
The

47
The whiche I purpose to do. And yf I
dye in that quarell/ye shal be deliuered
quyte out of pylson, and then I elene
rydde fro all my mysaduentures: and
so the death of one shal be cause of. ii. ly-
berties. I requyre you take me not as
your enemye, for any thyng that ye suf-
fre syns my merytes are not the cause,
but rather it is myne euyl fortune. And
ye may wel beleue that though your do-
lours be neuer so great, yet I fele more
tozmet in þe thynkyng vpon them, then
ye do in the sufferynge. Wolde to god
that I had neuer knowen you, and yet
therby I shulde haue loste the syghte of
you: the whiche to me is the greatest
welth of this worlde. I shuld haue ben
ryght happy, and I had neuer sene nor
herde, of the doloure that ye suffre, and
I am so accustomed to lyue in heuynes
that I am fayne to take counseyll for
your cause: but in the payne that I fele
nowe I take no counseyll, nor I haue
no rest, nor my herte can not be quyte

for the payne that ye suffer: feare not
the deth, for my propre handes shal saue
you therfro. I shall serche all the reme-
dies þat I can fynde to apeace þat kynges
yze. And if that fayle trust i me that for
your liberte I shall deale in such wyse,
that as longe as the worlde endureth,
there shalbe a remembraunce & ensample
of hardy valiauntnes. For this that I
saye is no great thyng to be done be-
syde the balewe of your excellence. The
cruell Justice of your prison causeth
my hardynes, who can resist my strenght
I have it by your meanes. What
thing is it that the harte dare not enter-
pise, your haute beinge fixed therein.
There is all onely but one euyl in your
saluation, the which may be bought w
an easy pryce accordyng to your deserte
that is, losynge of my lyfe. And though
I so do it is a smalle losse, so it may
delyuer you. With my good hope,
strengthen your feblenes: for and ye shulde
sette your thoughtes vpon al ieoperdes
ye

ye myght soone therby ende your lyfe:
wherby.ij.great inconuenientes shuld
ensue. The fyrste and principall is your
death. The.ii.is I shuld then be preua
tyd fro the greatest honour þ any man
myght haue, as in that I shulde not
then saue you. Lady, beleue in my wor
des and trust my promyse, do not as
some other women do, to take great
feare: for a small cause. If your feiny
nyne condycion accuse you with feare:
Then let youre dyscrecion strength you
agayne, which ye may well do by myne
assurauce: and by cause this that I say
shalbe wel prouyd. Therfore I requyre
you beleue me, I wyte not to you at
length as I wolde do, but I shal proue
to further your lyfe.

¶ The auctor.

Whyle Aleriano wrote his letter I
made me redye to departe and re
ceyuyd his letter, and made all the
dyligence that I coulde, tyll I came to
the courte and dyd my deuour that in
me

I com
forte of
delyue
raunce.

me was to haue spoken with Laureola
to haue gyuen her some comforte: but
I was denyed to se her. Then I was
enfourmyd of the chambze where she
laye, where was a wyndow with a gra
te of yron. And at nyghte I came thither,
and wrapped the letter togyther,
and set it on a spere poynte, and so with
mechetravayll, I dyd cast the letter in
at the wyndowe in to her chambze, and
the next mornynge I came thither a-
gayne, and sawe the wyndow open, and
I saw where Laureola stode, but the la
tyle was so thicke, that I couide haue
no persyte syght of her. Finally I apro
chyduerer to the wyndowe, & when she
sawe me marchyng fore by the wyndowe
she cast sodenly out a letter, without
spekyng of any worde: by cause of the
prease that was nere hande. And as I
was goynge away she sayd. Take the-
re the rewarde of the pyte that I haue
shewed, & by cause her keepers were nere
about her I durst make none answer:
but

49
but her wordes dyd put me in to suche
passion, that who so had folowed me
by the trace of my wepyng, myght well
haue founde me out. The tenoure of her
letter foloweth.

Laureolas letter to

Leriano.

I can not tell the Leriāno, how to
answer, and where as every man
laudeth pytie and reputeth it for a ver-
tie, and in me it is taken for a vice.
And accordyng thereto. I am chalgyed,
I do as I ought to do accordyng to pe-
tie: and I haue as I deserue accordyng
to my misfortune. For surely thy for-
tune nor thy workes is no cause of my
prison, nor I complayne nor of the nor
of none other person lyuynge, but al-
ouely vpon my selfe, who to kepe the f. o.
the deathe, charge my selfe culpable.
Howbeit, this complaynt that I haue
of the is more paynfull, then charge.
I do remedye as innocent, and yet I
am punished as culpable. For we be it,

G. i.

mo.

moche more pleaseyth me this pryson be
ynge without erreure, then to be at ly-
bertie, & infected therewith. And though
it be paynfull to suffre, yet I am eas-
lyd agayne that I haue not deseruyd
it. I am the that amonge all lyuynge
creatures, ought lest to lyue, withoute
the kynge saue me. I hope vpon no thyn-
ge but death: for yf thou delyuer me, or
any of thynne, in what so euer maner it
be, I shall be dolorous. And yf thou do
not remedye me. I am sure to dye: and
yf thou delyuer me, and take me away,
I shall be condemned as culpable.

Honour
is to be
preferred
ab.

Therefore I requyre the to trauayll to
saue myne honoure and fame, rather
then my lyfe: for the one must ende, and
the other wyll endure. As I haue sayde
serche to apeace the furoure of the kyn-
ge my father / for otherwyle I can not
be saued withoute the destruction of
myne honoure. Howbeit, I remytte all
to thy good counsaile and aduyle. Thy
wyldome can chose the beste way thou

may=

may
the
I a
rers
tyed
to m
ted,
pte,
wer
my
that
ther
aun
in th
uap
sue
lyke
his
As
and
gue
ne.
his
he

mayste se the rewarde that I haue for
the sauoure, that I haue shewed the.
I am put in Pryson where as murder-
ers were wonte to be kepte: and I am
tyed with chaynes, and with sharpe
tormentes, my tender fleshe is tounen-
ted, and with force of armes I am kee-
pte, as though I had the force and po-
wer to scape awaye. Thus delicate is
my suffrynge, and my paynes so cruell,
that besyde the sentence of death, my fa-
ther myght otherwyse haue take venge-
aunce vpon me, then to suffre me to dye
in this cruell pryson. I haue great mer-
uaill how of such a cruel father, shuld is-
sue so pacient a daughter: yf I shuld be
lyke hym in cōdytion, I shuld not feare
his iustyce, syns he wyl do it so vniustly.
As to þe toched Querisio I wyl make no
answer, bycause I wyl not defyle my tō-
gue, as he hath done my fame & renow-
ne. I had rather he wold reuoke & deny
his wordes þe hath sayd, rather then
he shuld dye for thē: but what so I say,

determinē thy selfe as thou lyst, thou
mayste not erre in that thou wilt do.

The Murther.

¶ Note
her ad:
misamēt.

Ryght doubteous I was when I
had receyued and redde the letter
sent fro Laureola to Leriāno, whether
I shulde sende it to Leriāno, or els kept
it still, tyll I went my selfe. At laste I
determinēd not to sende it for two con
sideracions and incouenyences. The
one was, I feared to put our secretes
in peryll of discouerynge by reason of
puttyng truste of any meane messan
ger. The other was for feare lest the
trouble that the letter shulde put hym
vnto, shulde cause hym to execute his
purpose in hast, before the tyme agreed
betwene hym and me: and thereby all
myght haue bene losse. So to tourne to
my first purpose: The first day I came
to the courte, I proued and tempted the
wylles of suche, as I thought wolde be
of our opinion, and I found none of the
contrary desyre, sauyng the frendes of

Per-

persia, to whom me thoughte it but a
folly to speake. And then I wente to the
Cardynall, and desyred hym if it wolde
please hym to make supplicacion to the
kyng for the lyfe of his daughter Laure
ola. The which he grauntyd to do with
nollese loue and compassion, then I de
sired it. And so incontinent with dyuers
other prelates and great Lordes to gy
ther, they wente to the kyng. Then the
cardynall in his owne name, and in all
theys, sayde to the kyng as foloweth

The cardynall to the kyng, for Lau
reolas lyfe & delyuerance.

Sy it is not without reason that
noble princes in tyme past ordey
ned theyr counsaillours, to orde by them
what was to be done: wherby they sou
de great profyte. And though counsaill
were stablyshed for many good causes,
yet I fynde. vi. reasons that the lawe
ought to be obserued. The fyrste is by
cause that men maye moche better or
der other mennes matters, rather then

of rea
sons that
counsaill
shold be
taken.

S. iij. the

**The
first
reason.**

**The
second
reason.
The. ii.
reason.**

**The. iii.
reason.**

**The. v.
reason.
The. vi.
reason.**

theyr obone: for the herte of hym that
the matter touchyth, can not be with-
out some yre, couetousnes, affection, or
desire, or some other lyke cōdicion. So
that he shall not determyne the cause,
as he ought to do. The. ii. is when
maters be pleatyd and arguyd: the
trouth is the better knowen. The. iii.
yf the counsaillours ordeyne iustly, and
bryng the mater wel to passe: the glozy
and honour is to them that folowyth
suche counsaill. The. iiij. is yf by a
nother mannes counsaill the besynes
fayleth and takyth none effecte: yet he
that demaundeth the counsaill is oute
of blame & charge: and they that gane
the counsaill muste bere the charge and
fauite. The. v. is bycause good counsaill
often tymes assuryth thynges that be
doubtuous. The. vi. is yf a man be
fallen in euyl fortune: yet in all aduer-
sities good counsaill putteth the pertye
in good hope. Certaynely syt it is but a
blynde counsaill, a man to counsaill
hym

hymselfe, knowynge hymselfe in any
furoure or passion. Therfore sye blame
ys not, though in the fearecenes of your
ye, we become to trouble you for we
had rather that ye shulde in your ye re
prehende us for our comynge to you.

Then that after ye shulde repent you &
condempne us, bycause we gaue you no
counsayll. By thynges done by good
delyberacion and accorde procureth pro
fyte, and prayse to them that so doth:
And thynges done in hast & with fury,
repentance must make amēdes. Suche
wyse and noble mē as ye be, when they
shulde do any warke, fyrste they shulde
determyne, or they dispoise, as well in
thynges present, as in thynges to come
and as well in those thynges that they
hope to haue profyte by, as in those thin
ges that they feare the contrarpe. And
And yf they fynde them selfe troubled
with any passion, tyll they be cleryd
therfro, they shulde gyue no sentence,
And yf they debate, and delaye theyr

G.iiij.

Dea-

deades, then they do well: for in all such
the weygher matters, hasty is daunger-
ous, and tariyng is hurtful. A wyse
man that wyl to iustly m. the thynges
on all these thynges, and of he t. any
thyng sole to reason, and to shew the
execucion to necessity. It is the precept
of them that be discrete, to preue they
reinsayles, and not to determine
open a lyght credence: And there as a
thyng is myth or ablest, holde then
the sentence in balance: for all thynges
is not of trouth, that is myth to be true.
The thought of the wyse man, in his
agreeth & nowe demaundeth, and nowe
ordere, and alwayes cast in it is mynde
be what may fall, and to felow of his
fame, and kepe hym self from erryng
and for feare of fallyng therein, wyl
remembre that is past. as he sh. best
therof, and ordene for the tyme present
with a temperance, and to remembre
what is to come, and in all these to ta-
ke auyement. S. all this that we ha-

ue

The wyl
of man
thought

we sayde, is that ye shoulde remembre
 your wyl dome, and out eyne your ded-
 des not furiously: but lyke a wyse man
 & tourne the force of your naturall wyl-
 dome agaynst the accyent of your yre.
 For we have knowledge that ye wyl
 condempne your tought: er Laureola to
 both which bountie & goodnes haue not
 bestowyd nor the right nor to be iustify-
 de. Therefore of trouth, ye are no right
 wyse iudge to trouble your glory: sta-
 me with such a iudgement. And we put
 case the had deseruyd this penythe-
 ment. yet in your so torynge, ye shall be
 defamed, and reputyd rather for a cru-
 ell father, then a right wyse kynge, ye
 gyue credence to. iij. euill men, and of
 shamefull conuersation, certaynely as
 good reason had it ben. to haue shott
 theyr lyues. as to haue gyuen credence
 to theyr wythesse. The men soe
 defamed in your Courte, for they con-
 ferme themselves to all iniquite. They
 glorifye themselves in theyr false test-

The cru-
 eltyng
 to the
 matter.

Crap-
 ch. v. the
 tyrants
 l. 1.

G. b.

1495

sons makynge, and in the begynnynge
that they make. And sye why geue you
more fayth to theyr informacio, rather
then to þe iudgement of God, the which
was clerely sene in þe batayll betwene
Berlio and Aleriano. Be not the sheber
of your owne blode: for then of all men,
ye shalbe dysprayed and dyspyled: bla-
me not the innocent for the counsaill of
the enuyous. And yf ye thynke that for
all the reasons that we haue sayde, that
Laureola ought not to be sayd: yet for
that ye ought to do for vertue, & by cau-
se ye be bounde of your Royalmes for þe
seruice that we haue done you, in oure
moste humble wyse: we requyre you to
haue mercy of het lyfe. And by cause
that fewer wordes then we haue spo-
ken shulde suffice to your clemencye, to
conuerte you to pytie. Therefore we wyl
saye no more, but that ye wyl remem-
bre howe moche better it is that youre
ye shulde peryshe, rather then youre
noble fame. * 420

¶ The

24
The kynges answer, to his
counseyllours.

Syrs I repute me well counsaylled
by you yf I were not more bound
be to pomyssh, then to pardon: ye neede
not shewe me þ reason, how that great
prynces ought to receyue counsayll, as
in that and in other thynges that ye ha
ue shewed, I knowe them right well/
but ye knowe well, when the herte is
chargyd with passion, then is it locked
fro hearynge of any counsayll, and in the
tyme, the frutfull wordes, to mptygate
the passion of yre, causeth it the soer
to encrease byryngyng to the memoire
the cause therof: wherfore I saye yf I
were quyte fro þ impedymment, I thyn
ke then I shuld dispose, and ordeyne sa
gely for the deth of Laureola the which
I wyll shewe, she hath deseruyd by iuste
causes determyned accordyng to ho
nour & iustyce, and yf her errour shulde
be lefte unpomysshed, I shulde then be
no lesse culpable, then Lariano. As to
chynge

The ho-
nour of
the blood
is to be
esteemed.

The in-
dignity of
the blood
is to be
esteemed.

chynge my dishonoure and shame, yf it
were published that I shulde pardon
suche a case, of my neighbours I shuld
be dysprayed, and of myne owne subget-
tes disobeyed, and of every man smally
estemyd. And also I myght well be ac-
cused that I have euyl conserued the ge-
nerosite of my predecessours. And this
faulte myght be so far exteemed, that it
myght spotte & defoule þe fame of myne
ancetours passed, & blemish þe honour
of them that be present, & sleyne þe blode
of them that be to come: for one spotte
in oure lignage, myght confounde all
oure generacion. The pardonyng of
Laureola shuld because of other great
euylles, the which shuld folowe by rea-
son of my pardonyng: wherfore I had
rather to cause feare, by reason of my
crueltie, then to cause boldnes to do
euyl by reason of my pytie. And in my so-
doryge, I shall be estemyd as a kynge
ought to be, by reason of doyng iustyce.
Beholde howe many reasons there be,
that

that shulde lede, that she ought to haue
sentence ye knowe well, our lawes hath
established, that a woman accused in su
ch causes shuld suffre deeth, & ye se well,
howe it were better for me to be called a
kyng in mynstryng iustyce then to par
don the culpable. And it ought wel to be
noted y^e in stede of concerning the lawe,
yf I do breke it my selfe, the whiche I
ought not to do, then I condemne my
selfe. The righte waye oughte equally
to be kept & obserued: for the harte of a
Iuge ought not to be moued for fauou
re, for loue, nor couetyse, nor none other
accider: folowynge right iustyce is lau
dable. And yf it be fauourable, then it
is abhorred. Iustyce ought neuer to go
out of the ryght way, syns it is cause of
so moche goodnes. It causeth feare to
them that be euyl, and it susteyneth
them that be good. It passyfyeth all dif
ferences: it determyneeth all questyons,
it expeleth all stryues and contentions,
it agreeth all debates, it assureth the
wayes

The du
ty of a
Iudge.

The pr
ty of a
Iuge.

wayes, it honoureth the people, it fa-
uoureth the small people, and of base
condycion, it bydeleth the myghty men,
and to the comen weale, it is ryght pro-
fyttable. Then to conserue suche a welth
and that the labours susteyneth it, It is
ryght that I shuld vse iustyce, yf ye de-
syre so moche the helth of Laureola and
praysse so moche her goodnesse, byynge
forth one wytnes of her innocēcy, as I
haue. iij. to charge her, then she shall be
pardonyd with reason, & praysed with
trouthe. Also where as ye saye that I
shulde gyue sayth to the Iugement of
God, as well as to the wytnes of other
men: it is no meruayll though I do not
so, for I se the wytnes certayn at myne
eye: and as for the iugement is not yet
endyd. For though Leiriano had the
better of the battayll, we maye iudge
the myddes, but we knowe not the en-
de. I wyl not answere to all your ale-
gacions and sayenges, because I wyl
make no longe processe, and at the ende
sende

The m
de is to
be regar
dyd.

56
sende you away without hope. I desyre
re moche to accepte your requestes by-
cause of your well deseruyng the tok-
and yet I do not, yet I requyre you take
it for none euill, for ye ought no lesse to
desyre the honoure of the father, then
the saluacion of his daughter.

The auctor.

The desperat answere of the kynge
was to the heres great heuyenes
And when I sawe that this remedye
was to me contrary, then I sought for
a nother way, trustyng that shulde be
more profitable. And it was I thought
to go to the quene that she shulde desyre
the kynge for the saluacion of her dought-
ter Laureola. So I went to her, who
was partaker of her daughters sorow.
And I founde her in an halle accompa-
nyed with many noble ladies & other.
who were suffycient to haue atteygned
theyr desyres, outhet iuste or vniuste,
thoughe the matter had ben neuer so
great, yet theyr desyres oughte not to
haue

Another
remedye
for to be
further
altered
la.

¶ Note
hete the
looe of
the mo-
toward
the non-
gibbe.

haue ben refused, bycause o^r the queene
te of the queene, who knelyd downe and
spoke wordes to the kyng as welleyng
charge to hym for his yre, as a fauor-
des of pytie to a peace hym. And she
bowed hym the moderation that a kynge
ought to haue, and reprehended the per-
seuerance of his yre: and shewing him
how he was a father, and allegory-
somes right discrete to note, and full of
counsel: saying, that if he wolde in des-
execute his cruell iudgement, to do it
rather vpon herself (saying gr. at parte
of her yeres were passed) then vpon
Laureola in her yonge age, a prouyde
that by her owne death, the same that
iudge shoulde be saurd, and the lyfe of
her that is iudged, and the mynd of the
desyer fulfilled. But the kyng & wyll
was indurate in his fylle purpose. all
the queenes reasons coulde not serue nor
yet her bytter wepynges. And therewith
the queene went into her chambrer with
small strenght, sore wepyng, and as re-
dy

dye to dye. And when I sawe that the
quene could gette no grace of the kyng,
I went to the kyng withoute any feare
of his feresnes, and sayd: how he ought
to gyve his sentēces with cleve justice, for
Leriano shulde fynde a man to fyghte
agaynst all those .iii. false wytnesses,
or elles to do it his owne proper person,
and to paye them accordynge to there
deserte, and then god shall shew where
the ryght is. Then the kyng answered
me, that I shuld leve myne ambassade
for Leriano: sayeng how the hearynge of
his name encreasyd his passion and yre.
And when the quene knewe there was
no remedy to save the lyfe of Laureola:
She went to the pryson and kyssed her
dyverse tymes, and sayde as foloweth.

The quene to Laureola.

Downte, by malice accused. O
vertue, by psecodymmyd. O dou-
ghter borne of the mother to forswore:
thou shalt dye without iustice, and I
muste wepe by reason. Thyne unhappe
H.I. hath

The
quenes
lamenta-
cion for
Laureola.

hath more pynfull to condemne the,
then thy innocēcy to saue the, without
the. I shall lyue accompanied with do-
loures, the which in thy stede thou shalt
leue me. Thy death shall end. ii. lyues,
the one is thyn without cause, and my
ue by good reason and ryght. To lyue
after the shulde be to me a sorer death,
then that thou shalt receyue: for it is
farre greater torment, to desyre the
daeth, then to suffre it. Woulde to god
thou myght be called the daughter of
the mother that shulde dey, rather then
to be she þ. I shulde dye. Of every man
thou shalt be bewailed, as long as the
worlde endureth: al that of the haue any
knowledge, wyll sette litle by this real-
me, the whiche thou shouldest inheryte
accordyng to thy desertes: for all that þ
art fallen into thy fathers displeasour,
yet all such as knoweth and assyrmeth
that there is none in all this lande that
deserue thy mercyes: suche as be blynde
desyre to se the: the dombe desyreth to
speke

e the;
hout
h do-
halt
ues,
d my
lyue
ath,
it is
e the
god
er of
hen
nan
the
any
cal-
pte
it p
ur,
eth
at
ide
to
ke

speke with the: the poore & the ryche to
serue the, all the worlde is well content
with the thou arte behated w no crea-
ture, but alonely with Iherio: yf I may
lyue a season, he shall receyue for his de-
merytes, iuste rewarde: And though I
haue none other strength, but to desyre
his death, and to be reuengyd of hym,
yf I coude / the euill wyll I beare hym
shulde then soone be bitteryd, yet this
can not satisfye me; for I can not hea-
le the doloure of the spotte of the execu-
cyon of the vengeaunce. O my deare
doughter thy honesty hath prouyd thy
vertue, why doth not the kyng gyue mo
re credence, to thy presence, then to the
wytnesse of thy false enemyes. In thy
wordes, deades, & thoughtes, alwayes
thou hast shewed a vertuous hert. why
then shuld God suffre the to dye, I can
fynde none other cause, but by reaso of
mysynes p I haue comytted, rather the
for any meryt of thy brightwynes. I
wold my dedes might be copared to thy

The to-
ken of
vertue.

innocency. Dere doughter lyft by thy-
ne harte to heuyn, take no sorowe, to
leue that muste nedes ende, for that
thyng that is permanent: I assure the
our lord god wyll that thou shalt suffre
as a martyr, to the entente þ thou shalt
ioye in his beatitude. In me haue none
other hope, but that & I were worthy
to go thither, as thou art suer to go,
I wolde shortly bere the companye.
Thynkyst thou not, that it is a harde
trouble to me to remember how many
supplications hath bene made to the
kyng for thy lyfe, and yet they cannot
obteyne. And at this houre, a sharpe
knife may rydde and make an ende of
thy lyfe, and therby leue the father in
faulte, and the mother in sorow and the
doughter withoute helthe, & the realme
withoute an herytour. O the lanterne
of myne eyne, I say to the these fearful
wordes to the entent they shulde breke
thyne harte a sonder: for I had rather
thou shuldest dye in my power by so-
rowe

to be, then to se the dye by Justice: for
though I shulde shed thy bloude, yet
my handes shulde not be so cruell, as is
the condicion of thy father. O virgyne
immaculate syns I can not accomplys
the mydesyre, and that I muste departe
fro the: yet receyue the dolorous laste
kysynge and blyssynge of thy sorowfull
mother. And thus I wyll go fro thy
syght, and from thy lyfe, and moste de-
syringe to go fro myne owne lyfe.

The Auctor.

When the quene hadde endyde her
wordes she wolde not abyde the
answere of the innocent her doughter
Laureola, bycause she wolde not re-
ceyue double sorowe. Thus the quene
and suche lordes as were in her cōpany
departed, with the gettest lamentacion
that euer was made. And when she
came in to her chamber, she sent to Lau-
reola a messenger, aduysing her to wy-
te to the kynge her father. Thynkyng
that he wolde take more compassion by

The
quenes
counsell
to her
dough-
ter.

H. iij. reason

reason of her piteous wordes, rather
then by the petitions of any other that
trauaylled for her liberte. Who at the
commaundement of her dolorous mother
toke pen, inke, and paper, & wrote with
greater turbacion, then hope of remedy.
Her letter specyfyed as foloweth.

The letter of Laureola to
the kynge her father.

Here father I vnderstande, that ye
haue gyuen sentence vpon me to
dye, and that the terme of my lyfe shall
be accomplisshed within these thre day-
es, and I knowe well the innocentes
ought no lesse to feare theyr fortune, then
suche as be culpable to feare the lawe.
And sens it is so that my mysfortune
hath brought me in to this pcell that
I am in, and not for any default that
I haue done, & which lyghtly ye myght
haue knowen, yf the furour of your yre
wolde suffer you to se the trowth. Ye are
not ignorant of the vertue that the au-
gient Cronicles and byssoyes man-
ifesteth

her
hat
the
her
with
dy.

t ye
e to
hall
ay-
tes
hen
we.
me
hat
hat
ght
ye
are
un
ny-
eth

testeth of the kynges and quenes: from
whome I do procede. Then why was
I borne of suche a bloude that wyl by-
leue rather the false information, then
the bounte naturall. Yf it please you to
slec me, for your pleasur, ye may well do
it: But as touchyng Justice, ye haue no
cause thereto. The deth that ye wyl gyue
me, though I refuse it for feare: yet by
reason of obedience I do consent thereto,
as she that louyth better to dye vnder
yours obedience, rather then to lyue in
yours dyspleasur. Wherfore I requyre
you, or ye determyne, take good aduise
for as sure as God is true I neuer dyd
thyng to deserue to suffer any payne.
But yet I say to you, it is as couenient
the petie of the father, as the rygoure
of Justice. Without doubt I desyre
as well my lyfe, because it toucheth your
honour so nere, as I do, bycause it per-
teyneth to my selfe: For at the ende I
am youre daughter. Consydre sye who
soeuerer byth crueltie, serchyth for his
H. iiii. owne

The obe-
dyence
that we
ought to
her fa-
ther.

The co-
det of
cruelte.

obone a perell: more sure it is to be be-
louyd, for blyng of pety and clemence
rather then to be fearyd by crueltie. He
that wyll be fearyd, muste feare. Cruell
kynge are of euery man behatyd, and
suche, some tyme in scrchyng to be a-
uenged, losyth them selfe: for theyr sub-
getes rather desyre trouble & chaunge of
the tyme, then þe conseruacion of theyr
a states. For good people feare suche
condicions in a prince, and suche as be
euyl feare theyr cruell iustice: so that
therby often tymes, theyr obone ser-
uantes study to put them downe and to
flee them: blyng with them the same
condycion of cruelte, suche as they blyd
them selfe before, and gauethem ensam-
ple. **Hys** I say this bycause I desyre to
susterne your honour and youre lyfe.
Small hope your subgettes shall haue
in you so cruell agaynst me. They shall
feare the same, and therby haue you in
a meruelous suspecte, and he that is
not sure, can make no suretie. **O** howe
frely

freely deliuered fro suche occasions are
those princes, whose hartes are endeu-
red with clemencie and great pite. They
naturall subgettes careth not to dye in
theyr quarrels, to saue them fro perill.
They wyl wake all nyght, and defende
them on þe day. More hope and strenght
these benygne and pitifull kynges ha-
ue, by reason that they be belouyd of
theyr people, then in the strength of the
walles of theyr stronge fortresses: And
other wyse, if the kyng be behatyd of
his subgettes. yf he had nede, they
that come moste slackest to saue hym,
shall haue moste thanke of the pople.
Therefore sye regarde well what hurte
and daunger, crueltie causeth: and what
profyt gentlenes and pite procureth.
Whobeyt yf ye thynke the oppynion of
your furour better than good counsayll
and naturall prudence, then unhapp
is that doughter to be borne, to brynge
her fathers lyfe in to condicion of slaun-
der prouyd with suche cruell deades.

H.v. Thus

Howe
pyte can
seth lo-
ue.

Thus no man shall truste in you, nor ye
shall truste no man: for yf men procure
your death, ye can be in no suretie. And
the thyng that moste greuyth me is, in
guyng sentence agaynst me, ye do iu-
stye agaynst your owne honour, & whi-
che alwayes shall be recordyd, more for
the cause, then for iustye in it selfe. My
blode shall occupy but a small place, but
your crueltie shall sprede ouer all & erth
Ye shall be called the cruell father, and
I the doughter innocent. For thus god
is iuste he shall cleare my trouthe: for I
shall be left without faulte, when I ha-
ue receyued the payne of death.

The Rector.

When Laureola had endyd her let-
ter, she sent it to the kynge by one
of her keepers, who louyd and fauoured
her in suche wyse, that he wolde gladly
she had ben at her lybertie / for he was
as moche moued to pyte her, as to obey
the kynges commaundement. And when
the kynge had receyued the letter and

redde it, he commaunded strenghtly that
the berer therof shulde auoyde his pre-
sence. And whē I saw that, then newly
agayne I cursed my mysaduenture, &
thought that my tormēt was so great
that it ottupped my herte in dolour: yet
my mynde forgat not to do þe I ought.
And though I had more space to endu-
re payne, rather then to fynde remedy/
yet then I went, and spake with the loz-
be Called her uncle, and shewed hym
howe Leriāno was determyned to ta-
ke Laureola perforce oute of pylson/
wherfor I desyred hym to be redy with
a certayne nombre of men, that when
Leriāno had taken her out of pylson,
then he wolde deliuer her to his power
to sette her in sauegarde. Bycause that
yf Leriāno shulde cary her awaye with
hym, it shulde betyfie the wytnes of the
falle accusers. And bycause that þe deeth
of Laureola was as deere to hym, as to
the quene his suster: he answered me &
sayde, howe he was content therewith.
And

Extre-
melye the
laste res-
medy.

And when his wyll and my desyre were
confermable togyther, then I departed
secretly, bycause that oz any brute were
made þ dead myght be executyd sodely.
And when I came to Aleriano, I the-
wed hym all that I had done, and of
the small effect therof. And then I deli-
ueryd hym Laureolas letter, and what
for the compassion of þ wordes therein,
and with the thoughtes that he deter-
myned to do, his herte therewith was
so oppressyd, that he wylt not what an-
swere to make me. He wept for compas-
sion, and coulde not refrayne his yre, &
was soze discomfortyd by reason of his
cuyll fortune, and yet he hopyd accor-
dyng to iustyce. When he thought to
reskewe Laureola, he was Joyfull.
And agayne whenne he doughted to
brynge it aboute, his herte chaungyd.
Finally leuyng all doubt, & knowyn-
ge the answer of Galles, then he be-
gan to study what way to accomplishe
his enterpryse. And lyke a wyse knyght

well prouyded whyle I had ben in the
 courte: he had assemblyd togyther of
 his owne seruautes. b. C. men of armes
 without knowlegynge of any of his kyn
 ne or frendes, some peradventure wold
 haue agreyd w hym w discrete confide
 ration, suche as were made priuy, some
 of them wold haue sayd, þ kyng dyd euil
 And some wolde say it was a ieopdous
 enterpryse and perillous to accomplishe.
 Therfore to erchev al suche inconueni
 entes he thought to execute his deade al
 one with his owne men. So the day be
 fore þ Laureola shulde haue bene iudg
 ed, Lariano callyd before hym all his
 seruautes and sayde to them: howe the
 good vertuous me were more bolide to
 feare theyr shame, then þ peryll of theyr
 lyues. Also sayenge, how yet theyr the
 fame of them that be passyd, by reason
 of theyr deades that they haue done.
 And he desired them that for couetise of
 worldly goodes the whiche shall haue
 an ende, that they shulde not. For that
 lose

The 163
 foote of
 Laureola
 to his
 seruants
 163.

The ho
le appo-
yntment
of Liria
nos co-
panys
to dys-
cer Lau-
cola.

lose the gloire of them, that lyueth per-
petually. And he desyred them to haue
in theyr memoire, the rewarde of well
dyenge, & he shewed them what folysh-
nes it was to feare deth. And in theyr so
doynge, he promysed them great gyftes
& rewarde. And when he had made to
them a longe sermon, then he declaryd
the cause that he sent for them: and all
they with one voyce proferyd to lyue &
dye with hym. And when Aleriano saw
theyr good wylls, he thought hym self
then well accompanied, and so departed
in the nyghte, and came into a baley
nere the cytie, there he taryed all the
nyght, & informyd his men what they
shulde do. He appoynted one capitayne
with a hondred men of armes, that
they shuld go streyght to the lodging of
Persio, and to see hym, & as many as
dyd resyste them. Then he apoyntyd
other.ii. capitayns with eche of them. i.
foote men, to go by to the two principall
Streates, goynge to the pylson where as
Lau-

Laureola was commaūdyng them that
whenthey came to þe pylson, that they
toured theyr faces to the cytewarde, &
kepte & defende that no persone shulde
entre in to the castell butyll suche tyme
as he with other. iij. C. men came to ta
ke out Laureola. And þe capitayne that
he had commaūded to sle Þersio he char-
ged hym that when he hadde done, to
come and meete with hym at the pylson
and they to defende the passage, yt any
come to entre in to the castell, whyle he
were takynge out of Laureola. And all
this thus agreed & cōcluded, when the
gates were opened in the mornynge so
selyly he and all his men entered in to
the cytie and euery capitayne toke hede
to his charge. The capitayne that had
the charge to sle Þersio, executed his
commaūdement, for he slewe Þersio, &
all other that were in his waye to let
hym. There Þersio endyd his mysera-
ble lyfe, & Aleriano went to the pylson,
and what with the furour of his yre, &
with

The sle
ynge of
Þersio.

with the vertue of his force foughte so
fearefully with the keepers of the pryson,
and slewe so many that he coude not
get forward for deed bodyes, but with
moche payne. But as in al perellys the
bountie encreaseth by force of armes.

The des-
pycing
of Lau-
reola.

So by cleue force he came in to the pry-
son where as Laureola was, & there he
toke her with as great seremony & ho-
noure as though it had ben in tyme of
peace, he knealed downe to the yearth,
and sylle her hande, lyke the daughter
of a kynge, and with that present tur-
bacion, she stode withoute strength, so
that she coude not moue her selfe. Her
herte dilmarde, her colour fayled, lytel
parte of any lyfe was lefte in her. Then
Leriano toke and carped her out of pry-
son, and then mette with Galles her
uncle accordynge to his promyse, who
came thither with a certayne nombre
of men, & there in the presence of every
man Leriano deliuered Laureola in
to his handes, and sylle his men foughte
agaynst

Laure-
la was
by Leri-
ano deli-
uered in
to her
uncles
custody.

65
agaynst them that came agaynst hym:
but he set Laureola vpon an hakeney,
that Galleo had ther redy, and agayne
kyste her hande, and then went to ayde
his men, that were styll syghtynge, and
styll he regardyd after Laureola, tyll he
had losse the syght of her. So Galleo
her vncle ledde her to a Castell of his
owne not farre thense, & when the bru-
te of this deade, came to the helynge of
the kynge, he called for his armure, and
sounded trompettes, and caused all the
men of his courte to be armed, & many
of the cytie. And whē Aleriano saw that
of necessitye it was tyme for hym to get
out of the towne into the feldes; then
he comforted his men, with swete and
hardy wordes. And alwayes in his re-
culynge, he defendyd the multytude of
his enemyes with a balyaunt herte, &
to kepe an honest maner in his reculy-
nge, he went in good order, and not with
so great haste, as the case requyred.

Thus Aleriano of his men, and sleynge

3.i. many

Aleriano
reculyng
se.

many of his ennemyes, came thither
 where he had left all theyr horses. So
 such order as he had set before was wel
 and truely kepte, & so without peryll he
 & his lefth upon theyr horses, the whiche
 was harde to haue bene done yf he had
 not wysely prouyded the remedy therof
 before hande. Then the horse men put
 before them theyr fotemen, and toke
 the way to Suria, fro whence they cam
 And when Aleriano sawe. iij. bandes of
 the kynges ap proche nere hym, then he
 wente out of the waye, and conductyd
 so wysely his company by wayes of a
 baintage, that he scapyd with as great
 honour in his reculyng, as he hadde
 wonne in the fyghtyng: so he enteryde
 agayne in to the towne of Suria with-
 oute losse of any of his men, which was
 great meruayll: for the kyng was there
 in propre person with. v. M. men of ar-
 mes, who was inflamyd with yre: and
 so beset the towne about, in purpose not
 to departe thence tyll he had taken ven-
 geaunce

The bes-
 sege
 of Aleria
 was in Su-
 ria,

66
geaunce of Lariano. when Lariano saw
howe he was besegyd, he sette his men
lyke a wyse mā of warre to the walles,
where as was moste feblest parte, ther
he sette moste defence, and where as he
myght best issue out in to the felde, there
he set suche men as were mete for that
purpose, and there as he feared other
crafte or treason, there he set suche as
he trustyd best. Thus he bled hym selfe
lyke a wyse capitayne. The kynge thyn-
kyng to bynge his enterpryse to an en-
de comaundyng to fortifye his campe, &
to prouyde for all thynges necessarye
perteynenge to a campe royall, as en-
gyns bastides, and bulwerkes to beate
the cytie with artyllary, & made great
dykes that none shulde issue out, when
the kynge sawe so longe taryng at this
syege his yre encreased / for he hadde
thought to had taken Lariano by rea-
son of famyne, and for all that he sawe
the towne ryght stronge, yet he deter-
mynd to saue it, the which he prouyd

¶ ii.

with

¶ Thys
necessa-
ry for a sye-
ge.

The go
de com
foze of
a cappy-
taine.

with suche ferocenes, that they bothin
had great nede to put to theyr strength
and dylgence to resyste. Then Leria no
went & bysytte his men with a. C. men
suche as were deputed for that purpose
and euery where he saw any fyghtyng,
he euer encoraged them, and where as
he saw halpauntnes he prayled them &
where he sawe any euill order he foun-
de remed^r. fynally the kynge caused to
sowne the certaynte with losse of many
of his knyghtes, & specially of the yonge
lusty courtiers, who euer seketh for pe-
rylles, to wyne cherbo glory. Leriano
at the same assaulte was hurte in the
face, and also lost many of his principall
men. This assaulte past, the kynge gaue
other fyue assaultes within the space of
iii. monthes, so that in maner men be-
gan to fayle on bothe pattres, so that
Leriano was doubtuous of that enter-
pryse, howbeit in his wordes and coun-
tenaunce. nor in his dedes nothyng of
feare coude be aspyed, so that þe corage
of

of the capitayne, encouraged al the other
capitaynes, and then to gyue corage to
his men so the as were leste, he sayde to
them as foloweth.

Laureola to his company.

Ertaynly syng as ye be but fewe
in nombze, so our strength is not
great, I haue doubte in our enterpryse
accozpyng to our euyl fortune, but in
that, vertue is eslemyd more then is
great nombze, and consyderpyng your
noble deade spalled, I thynke I shulde
haue more nede of good fortune, then
of great nombze of knyghtes: wherfore
alonely in you all my hope, and syng
our helth is in our handes, as well for
the sustentacyon of our lyues, as for the
gloze of good fame, we ought balpauunt
ly to fyght, neuer þ case is offeryd vs oz
ris to leue þ profyte of our enheritaunce
to them that wolde disheryte vs. Thus
we shuld be vnhappy if for fere & faynte
corage we shuld lese our herytage: ther-
fore lette vs fyght, to deliuer our blode

J. iij.

fro

The
wordes
of Laureola
and to
comfort
hys men

The lye
It is not
to be e-
scaped.

fro shame and dishonour and my name
fro enfamye, this day lette vs make an
ende of our lyues, or els conferme our
honours, lette vs defende our selfe, and
not to be shamyd, for greater is the re-
warde of victoꝝ, then the occasions of
peryll. This paynfull lyfe that we lyue
in, I knowe not why we shuld so moche
desyre it, the dayes therof are but shorte
& longe in traueyll, the whiche for feare
increseth not, nor for hardynes shorteth
not: for when we be boꝝne, our tyme is
lymytted the whiche we shall not passe,
therby feare is subdued, and hardynes
lauded, we can not put our fortune in a
better state, then to hope of an honoura-
ble deth. O glorious fame. O couetyse
laudable the aueryle of honour wherby
is atteyned greater deades, then this
of oures is, lette vs not feare the great
compane that is in the kyniges campe
for at the fyrst encounter, the weke shall
fyrst fyghte, and ouercome them, and
they shall abasche the multytude & the
small

small nombre wyll enforce themself by
vertue: many thynges dyueth vs to be
hardy, bountie and vertue byndeth vs,
and iustyce enforseth vs, necessity shall
rewarde vs: wherfore we ought not to
feare, for there is nothyng that shulde
cause vs to dye. Syns all these reasons
that I haue sayde be but superfluous to
enforce our strength. Syns we haue it
naturally, but I wyll say to you that in
euery tyme our hertes ought to be oc-
cupied in noblenes, & our handes in de-
des of armes, & our thoughtes in good
workes & good wordes amonge compa-
ny, as we do now I receyue equall glo-
ry as well for the amorous good wyll
ye shew me, as for the dedes of armes
ye haue done, & bycause I se our enemy-
es preparyd the to fyght, we be constray-
ned to leue our talkyng, & euery man to
get hym to his charge and defence.

¶ The auctor.

Leriano was answered of his kny-
ghtes wth great constance & corage

I.iiij.

of

The
good an-
swers of
his men.

of herte, wherof he thoughte hym selfe
ryght happy, that he had suche men in
his company, so every man went to his
defence, where as they were apoynted,
and then anone, they harde the trom-
pettes blowe, and within shorte space
there came to the walles a. l. M. men,
and beganne freshely to gyue assaulte.
Then Aleriano shewed his vertue, and
by reason of theyr defence, the kynge
thoughte they within had losse neuer a
man. This assaulte endured si o þ myd-
des of the daye, tyll it was nyght, the
whiche departed them: there were slay
ne and hurte of them without a. iij. M.
and as many of them within, so þ Aeri-
ano had left nomore with hym but. Cl.
persones, & yet by his countenance, he
semyd as though he had losse neuer a
mā: howbeit he was inwardly sorowful
for them that he had lost. All that nyght he
buried the deed bodyes, and prayd &
lauded the valyauntnes of them that
were left a lyue & gyvenge no lesse glo-
ry

ry to them that were deed. then to them
 that were a lyue. The next daye at the
 celyf in the mornynge Lariano deter=
 myned that. I. of his mē with hym shuld
 issue out, and set vpon a lodgynge that
 ioynd to the walles pertaynyng to a
 kynnesmans of Persios. Lariano dyd
 this bycause the kyng shuld not thynke
 that he lacked men. And this he dyd w=
 ferme boldnes, and so bzente the sayde
 lodgynge, and slewe many suche as ma=
 de defence. And as god wolde in t same
 busynes, there was taken one of them
 that had accused Laureola, & he was
 broughte to Lariano, and was put to
 payne tyll he was caused to shewe all
 the trouthe of the hole mater, and so he
 confessed the hole circumstance of the
 mater. And when Lariano was infor=
 med of the trouthe, he sente hym to the
 kyng, besechyng hym to discharge Lau=
 reola fro all blame, & to do iustyce vpon
 them, for the payne that they haue cau=
 sed Laureola to endure. And when the

J. v.

kyng

The tak=
 yng of
 one of
 the thre
 wynges,
 and the
 ende of
 the fodge

The po
nyment
of the .iii.
wytnes,

kyng knewe the certaynte, he was right
glad, and thought it was reason that
he requyred, and to make thorte p[ro]fess
The kyng dyd iustyce vpon the .iii. false
wytnesles accordyng to theyr deserten
then incontynent he reysed by the syege
and reputed his doughter Laureola dis
charged, and Lariano without faulte,
& so went to his cytie of Suria, & then
sent for Laureola by þe greatest lordes
of his courte, & she was brought with
equall honoure accordyng to her deser
uyng, and was ioyfully receyued of the
kyng & of the quene, who wepte for ioye
and there the kyng discharged her fro
blame, and the quene kyste her, and all
other serued her. Thus þe payne passed
was turned to great ioye present. Then
the kyng sent to Lariano comaundyng
hym not to come to his courte tyll he
had apeased þe kynnesmen & frendes of
Berlio, the which comaundement he re
ceyued with great sorowe, bycause he
myghte not se Laureola. And when he
salwe

ight
that
of
false
tters
regi
a dil
nte,
hen
des
with
ser.
the
oye
fro
d all
sted
hen
yng
he
s of
e re
e he
a he
we

catwe none other remedy, he felt hym self
fe in a straunge maner, and seying hym
selfe departed fro her. He lefte þe workes
of chyualrye, and retourned agayne to
his olde amorous thought; & troubles,
desyrynge to knowe what case Lauro
la was in. He desyred me to fynde some
honest maner, how he myght se & speke
with her, & yet his desyre was so honest
that he desyred not to speke with her in
suche wyse that any suspecte shulde be
layde to her, of the whiche he bescreyd
to haue had great thanke. And I who
was glad to folowe his desyre departed
fro hym, and went to Suria: and when
I came there, and had kyssed Lauroclas
hande, then I shewed her Lcrianos de
syre. And she answered me and sayde,
that in no wyse she wolde speke with
hym, for dyuers causes that she alled-
gyd. And though she was not content
to graunt me at that tyme, yet ever af-
ter as often as I might speke with her,
I made vyll my supplicacion, & fynally
at

at laste she answered me and sayd ones
 for all, that yf I spake any more to her
 in that mater, she wolde be vtterly dis-
 pleasid with me. And whē I harde her
 answer, and sawe her displeasur, then
 I went to Leticiano with a great hel-
 pes and doloure, and when I had che-
 mised hym towe it was: then he began
 newly to complayne, and sorow, for his
 mysaventure: so that without doubt
 he was in the condicion to haue disap-
 red. And beyng i case as a man that
 was not well aduysed for to augment
 his sorowe hopynge thereby to abyde
 ge his myscrable and moste paynful
 lyfe / beyng assured that mislike to a
 sorowfull persone, is as paynful as it is
 pleasaunte to ore that delyghteth in
 mythe. toke his harpe colored all blacke
 he played this dytie folowynge.

O fortune moste enuious vn-d prosperite
 O fortune most plentifull of cruell displeasur
 O fortune merciles and lackynge of pite
 O fortune mutable vnperfyt and vnsture
 O fortune spytefull not letynge Joy to endure

71
O fortune moſte falſe with thy ſubtyll trayne
why doſte thou deale falſly oꝝ me procure
Up foꝝ to ryſe and thꝛowe me downe agayne
farewell hope, welcome diſpayre
farewell reſt, welcome vnquyetnes
farewell pleaſure: tha: dyd me repaſſe
farewell myght, foꝝ I am comfortles
farewell Joy welcome diſtreſſe
farewell helth, that dyd me ſuſtayne
farewell that hop: that me redreſſe
And welcome diſpayre, that haty thꝛowen me downe
(ne agayne.)

O Death vnkynde why doſte thou refrayne
To come vnto me to eaſe my harte
And lyfe: ſay wher: doſte thou remaine
ſo longe within me to abyde this ſmarre
why doſte thou not from me departe
But ſuffer:ſt me ſtill to abyde this payne
And that I ſuffer the cauſe thou arte
To let me ryſe and thꝛowe me downe agayne.

And therewithall ſemed halfe deed
ſo that he almoſt lacked lyfe to con-
clude I perceyving hym redy to ſownd
foꝝ the anguyſhe that he ſuffered. To
comforte hym I couſeyled hym & ſayd,
wyte agayne to Laureola, recordeynge
therin what you haue done foꝝ her, and
meruaylynge of her chaunge, ſeyng ſhe
had rewarded you before with wytyn-
ge. Then he answered and ſayde howe
he

he was well content to wyte, but not
to recyte therein any thyng that he had
done for her: the whiche he sayd was no
thyng accordyng to her deservyng.
For also he sayd he wolde make no re-
membraunce in his letter of any rewat-
de that he had receyued of her. For he
sayd, the lawe of loue defendeth any su-
che thyng to be wyten. What satis-
faction shuld I receyue therby: for the
great peryll that myght fall, yf the let-
ter were sene. Thus not touchyng tho-
se matters I wyll wyte to Laureola
the tenoure of his letter foloweth.

The letter of Meriano,
to Laureola.

If my lady Laureola accordyng
to youre vertuous pytie syns ye
knowe my passion I can not beleue but
that ye wyll consent to my demaunde,
syns I desyre no thyng that shal be to
your dishonour seyng ye knowe myne
euill, why do you doubt, without rea-
son I dye, ye knowe that great payne oc-
cupyeth

cuppeth so myne harte, that I feale the
euyl, and can not shewe it: yf ye take it
for good that I shuld dye, thynkyng to
satisfye me with the passyon that ye gy
ue me, syns it procedeth fro you, it is þ
greatest welth that I can hope for, &
iustely I shall take it for the ende of my
rewarde, yf ye iudge me vncurtoyle in
that I shuld not be cōtent with that ye
do to me, gyuyng me cause of so glory-
ous thoughtes, yet blame me not thou-
ghe the wyl be not satisfied. The vnder
standyng of me maketh quarell, & yf my
deulour do please you, bycause I neuer
dyd you service þ myght atteyne to the
heyghnes of your deseruyng. when I
remēbre these thynges, & many mo, I
thynke þ bycause þ ye wyl not graūt me
supplicacion, bycause I can do nothing
that shuld deserue it, yet hardynes hath
caused me to hope vpon mercy, not ac-
cording to my deseruyng, but according
to your bountie that may gyue it. And
I thynke that your vertue, cōpassion, &
pytie

The fel
des of
noble-
nes.

The ser
uaunt. s
that ou-
ghie to
be sued
vnto.

pytie, shulde ayde me, bycause they be
agreable to your condycion. When
man hathe any busynes with a great
personage: thynkyng to attayne to ha-
ue grace: fyrste he must wyne the good
wylles of the seruautes, wherby a man
lyghtly shall come to his entent. But
as for me, I can fynde no remedy. I ha-
ue done my deuoure to serche for ayde
whom I haue founde alwayes serme
a stable for all they haue requyred you
to haue mercy vpon me: the soule bycau-
se he suffereth, and the lyfe bycause it fa-
steyneth, the herte bycause it endureth
the vnderstandynge bycause it feleth.
And syng ye wyll gyue no rewarde for
all these, in that they desyre, and by rea-
son haue deserued, I am the most vnfor-
tunat of all other vnhappy. The water
refressheth the earth: but my wepynges
can not molesye your endurat hardnes.
The water gyueth lyquor to the felde,
herbs, and trees, but my wepyng can
not entre in to your herte. And I fynde
my

my selfe disposed, dyspayre shulde ryde
my lfe, yf I myght be alone. But al-
wayes I am accompanied with the
thoughtes that ye gyue me, and with y
desyre that ye ordeyne me. Also there-
membraunce of that I wolde do comfort
eth me: remembryng how they kepte
me companye, in suche wyse, that what
soeuer cause I haue desperacion, yet it
kepeth me fro dyspaynyng: yf it be your
pleasure that I shall dye, lette me haue
some knowlege therof: then I shall not
be all vnhappy / for then I shall passe it
the more wyllingly, and at the ende it
shalbe to me the more ease: bycause it is
for your grt. And syns ye wyl not se me
I must be enforced to go that trace.

Meriano
reques.

[The auctor.]

This letter I bare to Laureola, to
moche payne she receyued it, and
to dispatche her fro Meriano honestly she
wrote agayne in this maner with full
ded. rmy nacio neurt to receyue agayne
fro hym other letter or message. The te

L. L.

now

ndre of her letter foloweth.

The letter fro Laureola
to L'eriano.

Leriano the displeasure that I ha-
ue of thyne euyl shulde be satisfac-
tion for thy loue, yf thou knewe howe
great it is. And this alone take for
thy remedy withoute demaunding of
any other. Though it be but a small
payments, for that thou hast deserued
agaynst me. For as I am bounde to do
yf thou wylt demaunde of my gooddes
and ryches, as thou dost desyre agaynst
myne honour, I woulde gladly geue it
the. I wyl not answer euery article
of thy letter for I consyderinge that I
do thus wyte to the, the bloud ryuneth
fro my harte and my reason banysbeth
fro my iudgement. There is no cause
that thou haste wyten of, that causeth
me to consent to be sozry for thyne euyl,
but it is alone by reason of my bosite
yet I haue no doubt, but that thou en-
durest moche euyl for the peryll y thou
hast

hast bene in; beareth boytnes of þ thou
hast sufferd. Thou sayst, thou dyddest
me neuer seruiſe. That thou hast done
for me; I shall neuer forget, but alway
desyre to satisfye it, but not as thou des-
syrest, but accordyng to myne honesty.
The vertue of pytie & compassion, that
thou thyngest shulde ayde the agaynst
me, bycause they are agreable to my co-
dytiō. Howbeit in this case they are en-
myes to my fame: & therefore thou syn-
dest them contrary. When I was take
thou sayd my lyfe, & now þ am quyte,
thou woldest cōdemne me w thy desyre
rather I ought to seke thy payne with
myne honour: then to remedy the with
myne owne faulte & shame. Beleue not
that the people lye so holly, but & they
knew þ I spake w the, they wold iudge
oure clere intensions to the worst: for
the worlde is so dyuers, that men wyll
rather defame bountie, then to praysse
bertue. Thus thy demaūde is excusyd
therfore take no hope therein, though
thou

R. II.

The re-
membra-
ce of a
good
to me.

thou shuldest dye as thou sayst. For bet-
ter is honest crueltie, then pyrie culpa-
ble. Herynge this perauenture þ wylte
saye I am moueable, bycause I began
to shew the some mercy, as in wytyng
to the, and nowe determyned not to re-
medy þ. Thou knowest well vnder what
maner I dyd wyte to the, and for what
entent, and thoughte it had ben for any
other cause, yet as cōuenient is the mu-
tacion in thynges that be hurtfull.

Wheras
hitherto
sometime
condem-
ned.

As is ferme steadfastnes in thynges that
be honest. I requyre the, strength thy
selfe. lyke a balyaunt knyght, and reme-
dy thy self discretely. But not thy lyf in
peryll, and myne honour in disputaciō,
syng thou so moche desrest it. What
shall be sayde yf thou dye, that I do re-
warde seruyce doue to me with taking
away theyr lyues, to the which I wyl
shew the cōtrary. Yf I out lyue the kyn-
ge my father, for then shall I gyue the
what parte of the realme þ the wylte
desyre. And I shall increase thyne. o-

Laureo
la r. wa
sde by p
myse for
haddor
ee.

75
noure, & double thy rences, & enhaunce
thyne allate, & all þe thou wylt ordeyne,
no thyng shalbe denyed. And thus by
thy lyfe I shalbe iudged a good rewar-
der. And yf thou dye I shal be reputyd
of euyl cōdycons, & yf it were for none
other thyng but for this. Thou shuldest
enforse thy selfe, but for the trouble
that thy payne putteth me vnto, I wyl
say no more to the. Bycause thou shalt
not thynke þe in thy demaunde I shuld
gyue the counsayll, or put the in any ho-
pe. Wolde to god, that thy desyre were
honest. Thus I counsayll the on the one
parte, and sayll the on the other.
And at this poynte I sende to the this
letter on the purpose neuer to answer,
nor to heare the speke more.

¶ The auctor.

When Laureola had wryten this let-
ter she sayd to me with a determy-
nate answer, that this shulde be the
laste tyme that I shulde apere before
her ptesence, sayeng þe her cōmynge
x.iiij. with

with me caused moche suspect, and that
in my goyng & comyng, there was mo:
reperryll to her, then hope to me of any
remedy. The I seying her determynat
wyl, it semyd to me that my trauaile
was mo: repaynfull to me, then remedy
to Aleriano. So I went fro her w more
wepyng then wordes. And after I had
Rystr her handes: I went out of the place
with sobbyng, & gulpyng in my thro:
te, that I was nere strangeled to kepe
in my wepyng, and to thentent to co:
uer my passion. And when I was out
of the cytie alone, then I began to wepe
in such wyse, that I could not retayne
my wyse fro wepyng, so I thought
it was better for me to dye in Baledo:
nia, then to returne in to Castyle, & whi:
che desyre was resonable for by & deth,
myne euill aduenture shulde make an
ende: and with this, my sorow shuld en:
crease. Thus all the way wepyng and
sobbyng seyth me not: & when I came
to Aleriano, I deliuered hym the letter:
fro

fro Laureola; and when he had redde it
he sayde he wolde not her take strength
nor receyue any counsaill, syng it was
so good reason that he shuld dye. Then
he sayde to me, that alwayes he wolde
take me, for more then his frende, by cau-
se of the good counsaill that I had ge-
uen hym. Then in heyes colour mor-
tall, he began to complayne, not blaun-
ge his webenes nor dyspraysing his fal-
lor every thyng that myght shorte his
lyfe, he prayled, he shewyd hym selfe,
frende to dolour, and to he recreation, to
tormentes, to lowd sorowes; all these
breakth his myghte, to be messengers
to Laureola. And by cause they shuld be
extremely dredded and dredded fro the
they came shewyd them in his harte;
he toged them to his handes and
and conveyed them with his myght;
he desired them to make a shew of
of that they had to do; to the intent
Laureola myght be served; and thus
beyng without hope of any welth, and

The pit-
tle mes-
sager to
Laureo-
la from
Meriano

That
was to
the hym.

l.iii. troubled

troubled with mortall paynes, coude
not susteyne hym self no longer, but per
force constrained to lye downe, upon his
bedde, where he wold nother eate, dryn
ke, nor slepe, nor take anythyng for su
stentacion of his lyfe, ever calling hym
selfe happy to come to þe case to do some
seruyce to Laureola, as by his death to
bryng her out of all trouble, so anone it
was publyshed a brode in the Realme,
and in the courte how Lariano was ly
ke to dye. Then his kynne and frendes
came to comforte hym, & to counsele his
purpose, they sayd and dyd as moche as
they coude ymagyne to preuaile his ly
fe, & because his infirmitie was to be cu
red by holisome reasons, euery man that
pyd theyr wyttes to do þe best they could
do. And there was a knyght called Cal
leo a great frende of his, he considering
that his sykkenes was for loue, though
he knewe not for whom it was, he sayd
and shewed to Lariano all the euylles
of women that he coude deuyle, and to
con-

77
conferme his owne reasons, he alegyd
as many thynges as he coude, in the de
famyng of women, thynkyngetherby
to haue restoryd Aleriano to his health,
when Aleriano had well harde hym, &
consyderyd þæt Aureola was a woman,
hæ rebuked greatly Teseo for spekyng
of suche wordes, and thoughte as then
his disposition was not moche to speke
yet he enforced his tonge, & with the pas
sion of great yre: sayd as foloweth.

Alerianos argumentes agaynst
Teseo, and all other euyl
spekers agaynst
women.

Ifende Teseo yf another man, þæt
loved the not so good loue as I
do harde my wordes, it wolde cause the
to receyue payne accordyng to thy des
serte: howe be it my reasons shall be to
the suche an ensample, to cause the to
kepe thy tonge, and it shalbe a chastyse
ment in stede of thy payne, in the whiche
the I shal folowe þæt condycion of a true
A. b. frenche

frende, for yt I thewyd the not thy fault
by quye seasons, peradventure thou
wouldest vtter forth agayne in other pla
ces suche lyke wordes as thou ryght
now sayd, it shalbe most for thy profit
to amend thy selfe by my contradictiōs
rather then to chaine thy selfe with per
seuerance, the intent of thy wordes was
as a frende, the whiche I well confyd
thou saydest them, bycause I shoulde
abbhor them that haue brought me
into þ case that thou seist me in. And by
reason of thy sapenge euyl of women,
thine entension was that by to gyue me
remedy of my lyfe, and therby thou hast
gyued me þ sooner deth: for the shame
full wordes that thou hast sayd, putteth
me to suche tourment, bycause it is a bo
man, that hath put me to this payne,
therfore by reason of herynge of thy
wordes, I shall lyue the lesse season,
wherby I shall receyue a great wretch;
for þ receyuyng of this dolorous death
were better to be shortly, then to sussey
ne

78
ne the lyfe any longer: for it is a thyng
delectable to suffre, & with a swete rest
to make an ende of this lyfe, the which
swete ende shalbe by reason that these
my laste wordes shalbe in the prayse of
women, and my wyll is somewhat to sa-
tisfye her in whom restyth all the cause
& to begyn to shewe the thynne errour. I
wyll alledge. xv. poyntes agaynst all
them that erreth in spekyng euill of
women, and. xx. other reasons I shall
lay, wherby we are beside to say well of
all women, with dyuers other samples
of theyr bountie & goodnes. And as to
the fyrste let vs fownde our reason, how
that all thynges made by the hande of
god are necessarily good: for accordyng
to the workeman; the worke ought to
procede: then knyghtinge & women are
his creatures, they & speke euill of them
offende not alonely them, but also they
blasphemye & workeman, the whiche
is god. The ii. cause is, & before god &
man there is not a more abhomytable
synne

Dis cre-
atura
bona est
The fyr-
ste cause
that wo-
men be
good.)

The ii.
cause.

Yung
ment.

The. iii.
cause.

The. iii.
cause.

syne, nor harder to be pardoned, then
is ingratitude, for where can there be
a greater syne, then to put out of know
ledge, and to forget the wealth that is
to come to vs by reason of the virgyn
Mary & dayly cometh, her seide deliue
red vs fro payne, & causeth vs to mery
te the glozy of heauen, her seide saucth
vs, susteyneth vs, defendeth vs, gydeth
vs, gyueth vs lyght of grace. Then se
ynge she was a woman, then all other
for her sake ought to be crowned with
laude and prayse. The. iii. is bycause it
is defendyd to all men, accordynge to
vertue to shewe any strength agaynst
the woche for femynyne. And this is ob
serued amonge brethren & sisters, wherfore
men shulde folowe the same, yet some
suche as lyfte to speke euill say, though
that women can make but small resis
tence with theyr handes, yet they haue
no lesse lyberty with theyr tonges. The
iii. is, a man ought not to saye euill of
women, without he dishonour hym self
bycause

bycause he was created and noysshed
 in the wombe of a woman, & is of her
 substance, and also bycause of the ho-
 noure & reuerence, þe every childe ought
 to do to his mother. The. v. is, bycause
 of the disobedyence to god, who sayd to
 his owne mouth, that father & mother
 shulde be honoured, therfore suche as
 do otherwyse do deserue soze penysshement
 & payne. The. vi. is, bycause noble
 men are bounde to occupy them selfe in
 vertuous deades as well in wordes as
 in workes, the more þe fobole wordes de-
 fowle cleynnes, then in peryll of slaunder
 & defamy, is the honour of such per-
 sons that wasteth theyr lyfe in such vayne
 wordes. The. vii. is, when that þe orde
 of chyualrye was fyrste stablysshed
 amonge other thynge, who soeuer shulde
 take þe orde of knyghthod, he shulde
 be bounde to kepe & defende all women
 & to gyue them all reuerence & honestie
 and who so doth the contrary, breketh
 the lawe of noblenes. The. viii. is, to be
 noble

The. v.
cause.

The. vi.
cause.

The. vii.
cause.

The. viii.
cause.

sende honourefro peryll, the auncyent
noble men with great dyligence and
study, kept and obserued alwayes such
thynges as perteyned to bountie, and
they reputed that so great that they had
no greater feare of any thyng in the
wozld thether had to leue behynd them
the remēbrance of infamy & reproche,
the which they kept not, that preferreth
turpytude and fowlnes befoze vertue,
putting spottes in theyr fame, by reason
of theyr euill tonge. For oftentimes a
mā is iuged to be accordyng to his woꝝ-
des. The. ix. & most princypal is for the
condēnaciō of þe soule: all thiges wrong
fully takē, may be satisfyed, but þe fame
robbyd and taken away, the satisfacciō
therof is doughtfull, þe whiche is moze
completely determyned in oure beleue.
The. x. is to eschew hatryd for suche as
bestowe theyr tyme in euill spekynge
agaynst women, they make them selfe
not onely enemyes agaynst them, but
also to them that be vertuous; for lyke
as

The. ix.
cause.

The. x.
cause.

his vertue & byce are contrary, and haue
difference proprieties, so the euyl speaker
can not be without hate and euyl wyll
& many enenies. The. xi. is, bycause of
the hurtes & by such malycious deades
are encreased, for wordes gyue the lyce-
nce, and are ioyned to the herynge of the
rude people, as well as to them that be
discrete, and herynge of suche tales, su-
che as be but of small spyrite wyll repro-
ue the euyl speaker, and cause them to re-
pente theyr wordes, and entreate them
euyl, & peraduentur sle them the cau-
ses maye touche so nere. The. xii. to ef-
fect the murmurations, the which eu-
ery man ought to dought: for a man be-
ynge defamed, & called an euyl speaker
in euery place as well within houses as
a brode in þe felde, me wyll speke shame
of hym, & murmur at his byce. The.
xiii. is, for þe peryll þe maye ensue for whiche
suche betaken for euyl speakers, they are
behated of euery man, and some perad-
uenture to please theyr ladies, wyll let
theyr

The. xi.
cause.

The. xii.
cause.

The. xiii.
cause.

the. xiii.
cause.

the. xv.
cause.

they: it does byen them that speke euill
of any woman. The. xiii. is, for: the beau-
tie & grace that is in women, the which
is of such excellence, that although they
had all such other byes in them, as the
euill spekers do slander them with all
yet it were better to prayse one thyng
of trouth, then to dispraise all with ma-
lyce. The. xv. and laste is for the great
welch and goodnes, that womē be cau-
sets of, for of them are bozne Empe-
rours, kyngs, lordes, and all other no-
ble men, and all other vertuous men do
yuge deades worthy of prayse, and also
of them proceedeth wyle men, who see-
keth to knowe, what is good, in whose
beloue we be sauyd. And also of women
cometh these inuenture persons, who
maketh cyties and stronge buyldynges
of perpetual excellence, and by them are
brought forth such men as seeke for all
thynges necessarye for the sustentacion
of the humayne lynage.



The

**The.xx.Reasons that Le-
riano shewed, wherby that men
are bounde to loue women.**



A Doe Teseo syns thou hast har-
de the causes, wherin thou arte
culpable, & all other that folowe suche
aronyous oppnyon, let vs leue all pro-
lirite, and heare .xx. reasons, wherby I
wyll proue that men are bounde to wo-
men. The fyrst is bycause by theyr mea-

xx. rea-
sons wher-
by the men
ought to
loue wo-
men.

L.i.

nes

Pruden

nes the symple & rude persones dispose
themself to attayne to vertue, & to pru-
dence, and not alonely, they cause the
symple to be discrete, but they cause
them that be discrete to be more subty-
le: for yf they be luryd with the passion
of loue, they studye then so moche for
theyr lybertie & in sufferynge of theyr do-
lour they studye & ymagyne to speke rea-
sons so swete & so mete for theyr purpo-
se, that oftentymes for compassio ther
of they are deluyerd: & suche as be sym-
ple, & rude of nature, yf they be entryd
into loue though they begyn rudely,
yet they quyen so theyr vnderstandyn-
ge, that often tymes they come thereby
to boyldome. This they haue by womē
though theyr naturall reason fayle.

**The.ii.
reason
is iustice**

The.ii. reason is that by reason of iu-
stice they cause men to haue the vertue
of sufferance, for such as be in the tray-
ne of loue and suffre payne out of mea-
sure, they take it in maner for a cōforte
iustifyeng, that they suffre it ryghtwys-
ly

ly, and yet they make vs not alonely ioy
for this vertue, but also for other as na-
turall. for they that be stedfast louers,
to be prayesd of them that they serue,
they seke al the wayes they can to plea-
se, for whiche cause they lyue iustly not
excedynge in any thyng, in that is ho-
nourable nor mete to be done, bycause
they wolde not be fampyd to be of euyl
cōdytions, or to vse any euyl customes.
The.iiij. cause is they make vs worthy
in the vertue of attemperaūce, bycause
they shuld not abhorre vs, nor that we
shulde not be behatyd of them, they cau-
se vs to vse attemperaūce in eatynge &
drynkynge & slepyng, and in all other
thynges that pertynceth to the vertue
of attemperaunce as well in spekyng
as in all other warkes, so that we wyl
not excede in no poynte from honestye.
The.iiij. is they that lacke strength, wo-
men do gyue it to them, & suche as hath
strength by þe meanes of womē, it doth
encrease, they cause vs to be stronge

L.ij. to

The.iii.
reason
is tem-
perance

The.iiii.
reason is

For
be,

to suffre, they cause hardynes to enter-
pryse, they cause the herte to hope, whē
they put theyr louers to any ieopardye,
they cause them to be in glozy, they cau-
se vs to repute fere, a great vyce, for we
esteme more þ prayse of our louer, then
the pryce of longe lyfe. For theyr sake
they begyn, and make an ende of many
great enterprys, puttyng theyr strength
in þ state as they deserue: wherfore we
may well iudge, þ we be boude to them.

The. v.
reason
is forth

The. v. is they endewe vs with no lesse
bertuous theologicals, then they do w
bertuous cardynals. And to speke of þ
fyrst, the which is fayth, yf any man be
in dought of his beleue, yf his mynde be
oneset in loue, then he shall truely be-
leue in god, and laude his pyssance to
create suche a creature as his louer is,
with so excellent beautie, and they wyl
be so deuoute, that the apostles in holy-
nes shall haue of them none aduantage

The. vi.
reason
is hope.

The. vi. reason is bycause they engen-
der in our soules the vertue of hope, so
though

though the subgiettes to þ laboe of loue
endure moche payne, yet alwayes they
hope in theyr beleue, the hope in theyr
stedfastnes, they hope in þ pytie of them
that cause theyr payne, they hope in the
cōdytion of theyr louer, who distroyeth
them, they hope in the aduētūre seynge
they haue so moche hope vpon them þ
gyueth them theyr passion, then they
must nedes haue hope in god, who offe-
reth and promyseth perpetuall cōforte
and rest. The. vii. reason is, they cause
vs to deserue charite, the proprietiether
of is loue: this resteth in our wyll, this
we put in our thought, this we drawe
in to our memory, this we ferme in our
hertes. And though it be so that we vse
this loue towarde our louers, yet it re-
boundeth to the louer aigne vti lyte and
welth in tyme to come, so þ with quicke
contricion it shall brynge vs to god: for
loue at the pynche of death causeth vs
to do almusse dedes, and cōmaundeth
to say masses, and occupyeth vs to cha-

L. iij. rpta-

The. vii
reason
is char-
te.

the. viii.
reason
is contem-
placion

The. ix.
reason is
contric-
tion & con-
fession.

rytable markes to content to despyce
vs fro our cruell thoughtes, and by cau-
se that women naturally are deuoute,
and by cause we wolde be patrakers of
theyr deades, it enforseth vs to do suche
good workes as we do. The. viii. reason
by cause they make lvs contemplatyue,
for the prysoners of loue, to gyue them
selfe to contemplacion, in remembryng-
ge the beautie grace and excellence of
them that they loue, and so merke they
thynke vpon theyr passions, that osten-
tymes they remembre God, and let so
theyr hertes vpo hym, that they thynke
them selfe well worthy to receyue theyr
paynes and tourmentes. Thus it may
be knowne clerely that women helpe &
ayde men, to wyne the glory perdura-
ble. The. ix. reason is they make our her-
tes contryte, notwithstanding that
some be sore payned, by cause they can
not attayne, to theyr wylls and desy-
res, then with wepynges and syghyn-
ges they desyre of theyr ladyes, some re-
medye

medye. And the accustomynge of this
 doyng bryngeth them to go confesse
 theyr synnes with wepyng & waylyng
 in suche wyse that they deserue pardon
 & absolucion of theyr synne. The. x. is,
 the good counsaill that women gyueth
 vs, often tymes it fayleth that we syn-
 de in theyr redy counsaill, that we haue
 longe studyed for before, & sought for
 with great diligence: and by theyr pea-
 seable counsailes without sclaunder,
 they haue withstande many euylles, &
 sauyd many lyues: they conserue p pea-
 ce, they refrayne yre, & a pease furyous-
 nes, and sette amyte bytwixt enemyes,
 The. xi. is men be honoured by them,
 they cause great maryages w great ry-
 ches & rentes, some peraduenture wyll
 say p honour restyth not in ryches, but
 rather in vertue, I say therto, they cau-
 se as well the one as p other. I presume.
 that there be great vertue in vs yet the
 great honoures and prayse that we de-
 syre to haue cometh by them, by cause of

The. x.
 reason
 is theyr
 good co
 unsaill

The. xi.
 is the p
 motion
 that com
 by them

The. xlii.
reason
is our li
beralite

the. xlii.
is they
circulaci
on,

the. xliii.
is they
clennes.

women, we esteeme more thame, then
our lyues, for theyr sake we stody to do
all workes of noblenes. The. xli. reason
is, they seperate fro vs all auaryse, the
whiche is the rote of all euyl, and cau-
seth vs to be accompanied with lybera-
lyte, wherby lyghtly we gette the good
wyl of euery man: they cause vs lybera-
ly to spende that we haue, wherby we
are praysed & fast tyed to euery man to
good loue, so that in what soeuer neces-
sityte we falle in, we shall receyue ayde &
seruise, and not alonely they profyt vs,
as in causynge vs to vse lyberalite as
we ought to do, but therby they cause
vs to be moche set by and made of, and
what surer thynge can be then to haue
the good wyl of the people. The. xlii.
reason is women increase and kepe our
goodes and rentes, and that we haue
gotten, they conserue it with great dy-
lygence. The. xliii. is the clennes that
they procure vs to vse as well in our per-
sones, as in our habylmentes, and in
euery

every thyng that me medle with. The
 xv. is for þ good byrnyng bp of chyl-
 dzen, the whiche is a pyncypall thyng
 wherof men haue great nede, for yf we
 be well brought bp, we shall be all cō-
 telye, and eschewe the contrary, therby
 we shall honour the small, and serue the
 great, & not alonely they cause vs to be
 well brought bp, but also to be beloued
 for yf we entreate enery man as he de-
 serueth, they shall entreate vs accordin-
 ge to our desertes. The. xvi. is they cau-
 se vs to be galant and freshe in our ap-
 parell, for they take we studye how to
 apparell vs, and what we may were, &
 for they take we araye vs by good in-
 dustry, and crafte to byrnyng our perso-
 nages in to a beue forme, þ which som-
 tyme peraduenture nature denyeth, then
 to hyde that deformyte, crafte muste be
 vsyd and occupyed, deuyfynge the appa-
 rell accordynge, somtyme longe, som-
 tyme thorte, somtyme streyght, som-
 tyme wyde, as best may become the per-
 son.

The. xv
 is oure
 educaci-
 on.

the. xvi.
 is the ca-
 use of o-
 ur apa-
 rell.

L. b. sone

the. xviij.
reason is
they can
se musy
ke.

the. xviij.
reason is
they in-
crease
our stre-
ngth.

The. xix.
is the de-
ken our
lyuely
spyrtes

lone, these galantes for loue of women
deuise newe entayles, and cuttes with
discrete borders, and dyuers other new
inuenions. The. xviij. reason is often
tymes they cause musyke to be had of
all instrumētes, & many of them occupy
the same, so that we ioy of theyr swete
armony, for theyr sakes are songs these
swete romāses in as subtile wayes as
can be deuysed. The. xviij. is they cause
our force and strength to encrease, for
when men come before ladyes, and gen-
tyll womē, they enforce them to cast sto-
ncs, barres, and dartes, and to wrestle,
ronne, and leape, and the syght of þ wo-
men vtterlyth theyr feates with more
force, then yf the women were absent, &
all this is to thentent, to attayne the lo-
ue of theyr lady. The. xix. is they quye-
ken the inwarde spyrte, as well as the
body, for yf we knowe þ our louer take
pleasure in any thyng, other in spyn-
ge, dauncyng, or playeng, bpon any in-
strumēt, they wyll then aplye them self
to

to lerne it, and to trauaile theyr spiry-
tes there aboute, & thoughe they were
but dulle before, yet with such diligence
they wyll attayne to the perfection of h
arte, therby to gye recreation to theyr
louer. The. xx. and the last reason is by
cause we be womens chyldren by the
whiche respect we are mosse bounde to
women, rather then for any other cause
sayde before, or to be sayd. For pleasure
of women, are ordyned these iustes roy-
al & pompeous iournys and these ba-
kettes, and ioyfull feastes, for them is
begon thynges of gentylnes, there is
no cause why they shulde be by vs dis-
prayed. O trespass of greuous chasty-
ment, what woman is there in all the
worlde that wyll not haue compassion
of the cryes & lamentacions þat we heare
them, or of the paynefull wordes and
syghes that we bite before them, or of
the sweerynges and promyses that we
make to them, or what is he, that wyll
not beleue þat stedfast sayth that we pro-
myse

The. xx.
and last
reason is
because
we be
theyr fle-
sh and
blode.

the pay-
nes of a
loue.

myse, what herte can be without frute
 herynge the cōmendable prayles, that
 we gyue them by ferme herte and wyll
 & by none adulation nor malyce, what
 woman is she of so ferme and stable a
 mynde that can defende her selfe, yf she
 be continually pursued, consyderynge
 the deades of armes, wherewith they be
 fought withall, though they make but
 small defence, it is no meruayll, and yet
 such as can not defende the selfe ought
 to be prayled and named pytefull, ra-
 ther then to be reputed culpable.

The p:se by ensample, of the
 bounte & goodnea of women,
 shewed by Leriano.

The ens-
 ampl. s
 of Leria-
 no in the
 cōmenda-
 tion of
 women.

To the intent that laudable vertue
 of the sex femynync, shulde be de-
 clared accordyng to theyr desertes. I
 purpose to alledge certayne ensamples
 howbeit my desyre was to haue testyd
 with this & I haue sayd to the intent &
 my ignorant and rude tonge shuld not
 haue troubled theyr clere bounte by rea-
 son

son of my vnboydom: howbeit my pray
se can not encrease theyr goodnes, nor
my disprayse can not abate theyr pro=
pertie, yf I shulde make reherfall of the
chaste birgyns tyme past and present. I
had nede to haue the deuyne reuelaci=
on, for there be and haue ben so many
that no humayne wytte can cōprehēde
them. And to be bryefe I shall shewe of
some as I haue redde, as well crystened
as gentylis & iewes. I wyl make ensam=
ple by the few, to cōprehende the vertue
of the mo, as for suche as be auctorysed
to be sayntes, I wyl not speke of them
for thre causes. The fyrste bycause it is
manifeste, and openly knowen, then it
were but symplenes & waste to reherse
it. The.ii. cause is the Church gyueth
them vniuersall prayse. The.iii. bycau=
se I am not worthe to put in my rude
wordes, theyr excellent goodnes, & speci=
ally of our blyssed lady. All the doctours
& deuoute cōtemplatyues, coulde neuer
speke nor prayse her, as she is worthe,
nor

whiche
wyl not
speke of
sayntes

Lucres.

noꝛ reche to the lesse parte of her excell
lence, wherefoꝛe I wyl come lower and
declare of them that I may speke moꝛe
lyberally, I wyl begyn at þe chaste gen
tylles, **Lucresia** the crowne of the na
cion **Romayne**, wyfe to **Colatyne**, kno
winge her selfe enforced & defowled by
Traquyne, she sayd to her husbnde **Co
latyne**, dere spouse, knowe foꝛ trewth þ
a straunge man hath defowled thy bed
Howbeit though my body be enforced,
my herte is innocent, though I be fre
fro the trespase, I can not be assoyled
fro þe payne, & to the intent that no lady
noꝛ other womā hereafter by myne ex
ample shuld erre, & so with spekyng of
those wordes with a sharpe sword she
cynde her owne lyfe. Also **Porcia** who
was doughter to the noble **Cato** and
wyfe to the noble & vertuous **Bruto**, &
when she knewe the deth of her husban
d she toke suche greuous sorowe, that
to the ende of her lyfe, she dyd eate hote
coles, to make sacrefyce of her selfe, **Pe
nelope**

Porcia.

Penelope wyfe to Ulixes, the knobyngge ^h Penelope
he went in to warre agaynst the Tro-
ans; knobyngge ^h yonge men of Italy
were soze enamored bpō her beautie, in
the absence of her husbände, byuers de-
syred to mary with her. And she desyr-
ynge to kepe her chastyte, & to defende her
self agaynst them, sayd howe she wolde
make a webbe as L adyes bled in those
dayes: & when it was fynysshed, she pro-
myssed her woers thē to accōplysh theyr
desyres. And whē she had graunted this
by her subtyle wyf almoche as she ma-
de in the day, she brake it agayne in the
nyght. And by ^h meanes she draue of ^h
season. xx. yere, and then Ulixes came
home alone olde & in great pouertie, yet
the chaste lady receyued hym & though
he had come i to great prosperyte. Also
Julia doughter to Cesar ^h fyrst Empe-
rour beyng wyfe to Pompey the lorde
hym so entyerly, ^h on a day she fyndyng
his clothes bloudy, beleuyng that he
had ben dradefell sodaynly to the earth
and

Julia.

Atreni
ca.

and dyed for sorowe. Atrenisa amonge
other mortall creatures, worthy to be
prayed, she beyng married to Manfall
kyng of Itaria she loued hym with so
ferme a herte that when he was deed,
she gaue hym Sepulture, within her
owne brest, she brent his bones, and the
ashes of hem she dranke lytle and lytle
and the seremonyes made of his obse-
quy thynkyng that she wold go to hym,
slew her selfe with her owne handes. Ar
gea doughter to kyng Adastro & wyfe
to Polymytes lone to Egisto kyng of
Thebes, when Polymytes was slayne
in a batayll by þe handes of his brother
she knowyng therof (without fearynge
of her circumes, or of any other wyld
beestes, nor fearyng þe emperours law)
went out of Athenes in the nyght in to
the felde, and founde out amonge the
deed bodyes her husbandes body, and
carped it in to the cytie, and caused it to
be brent according to the custome with
bytter wepyng, puttynge the ashes in
to a

Arges.

to a cofer of golde, and then promysed
her lyfe to perpetuall chastyte. Ipolo of
grece saylynge by the see, by her euill
fortune, she was taken by her enemyes,
and they wolde haue enforced her, and
she to conserue her chastite, went to the
one syde of the shyp, and wyllingly fell
ouer the borde into the see, and there
was drowned. Howbeit the fame of
her dede was not greatly laudable. No
lesse worthy of praprie was the wyfe of
Amede kynge of Thesale, she knowynge
by the answere of the god Apollo, that
her husbande shulde receyue the death,
without voluntarily some other person
wolde dye for hym, and so wyllingly to
saue the kynge, she disposed her selfe to
dye. Nowe of the nacion of the Iuss.
Sara wyfe of father Abraham, when
she was taken, and in the power of kyn
ge Bharas, defendynge her chastite,
with the armes of prayer, desired god
to deliuer her out of his handes. And
when the kynge thought to haue fulfilled

Ipolo
drownd
her selfe
to saue
her cha-
stite.

The wy
fe dyed
to saue
her hus-
bande.

Sara.

99.1. led

Delbo :

Hester.

Sampe
son mo:
thes.

Elisab:
beth.

led his euyl dede, god heyring her pety-
cion, the kyng waerd syche, in suche wy-
se that then he knew wel it was for his
waton desyre. Then he comaunded to de-
liuer her quyte without any spot of bi-
clenes. Delboza enduyd with so many
bertues, deseruyd to haue the spirite of
prophecy, she shewed not alonely her
bounte in artes femynyne, but also in
stronge batayles fghtyng agaynst her
enemyes with a valyaunt & a vertuous
herte. And she was of suche excellence
that .xj. yeres she rulyd the people of the
iues. Hester brought in captiuite into
Babilone for her bertue & fayrenes she
was take to wyfe to kyng Assuara who
at that tyme ruled a .C. xxij. prouynces
And by her merytes & prayers deliuerd
the iues fro theyr captiuite. Also the
mother of Sampson desyring to haue
a sone, deseruyd by her bertue that an
aungell shewed the natiuite of Samp-
son, Elisabeth wyfe to Sacarias, as
she was the very seruaunt of god, for her
deser:

deseruyng she had a sone sanctified or
he was borne whiche was saynt John.
Now of olde storpes of chursten women
I can not wyte them at length: but to
be brefe to shewe some of a latter tyme
of the nacion of Castyle. Don Maria
Coronell by whom began the lynage of
the Coronelles, bycause her chastyte
was praysed, and her bounte not hyd,
she was accusyd of a tyme, wherfore
wyllynge, she brent her selfe, hauyng
litle feare of the deth, then to be founde
culpable. Also Done Isabell mother to
the mayster of the order of Calatrane.
Done Rodigo and mother to .ij. erles,
of Urema. Done Blonso & Don John,
she beyng a wydow fell in to a sykkenes
and the physicions to procure her helth
sayd howe she coulde not lyue without
she marryed, or had the company of mā
then her chyldren knowynge what case
she was in, desyred and counsaylled her
to take an husbande, she answered and
sayd, by the grace of God, that shall I
A.ij. neuer

90
The co-
raunce
to be no-
ted in a
cording
a dyene.

She had
rather
dye of a
sykenes
then to
mar: as
saynt.

A mayd
of 14. ye-
ers.

never do for I had rather dye, to be cal-
led mother to suche chyldren as ye be,
then to lyue, and to be called wyfe to a
mother husbnde. And with this chaste
consyderacion, and by the pleasoure of
god, when she dyed, there were mystery
es sene of her saluacion. Also Don Ana-
ria gracia, the blessed woman borne in
Colledo of the greatest lynage in all
the cytie, she wolde neuer mary, keepyng
her birginite. xix. yere, at whose death
were sene dyuers myracles, the whiche
yet in Colledo be had in perpetuall re-
membraunce. O what may a man say of
the pure virgins of gentyles. Atifalia
Sybela borne in the cytie of Babilone
for her merytes she prophesied by dyuy-
ne reuelacion many thyngs to come af-
ter alwayes conseryng her birgynite
till she dyed. Salas & Synarua fyrste
sene aboute the ryuer of Tritonia, new
inuenters of many offces perteynyng
to the sempayne ser, and also to men, al-
wayes lyuynge as birgyns. And so en-
ded

91
bed Alalanta the that fyille strake the
porke of Calidonia, in virginite & noble
nes she conrynued. Canulla doughter
to Macabed kynge of the Volles, she
dyd no lesse, then other dyd i keepyng of
her virginite. Calandea, Vesta, Clodia
Romaine they kept the same lawe till
theyr death, yf it were not to length my
trouble yf I shuld lye this. M. yers, I
coude not resyte the ensamples, that I
coude reherce: therfore Cesio accordyn
ge as y hast harde, thou & suche others
as do blasphemethe nature & tempore,
are well worthy of ruste punysion, the
whiche I counsaill the not to abyde so
receyue it of another, but rather punyfe
the thy selfe, yf thou do it of malyce con
dempe the shame therof.

¶ The auctor.

All such as were present had great
meruayll of his wordes sayng by
his spekyng to be so nere the death as
he was for when he had ended his wordes,
his tonge beganto faile, and his
M. iij. syght

2
syght nere losse, then his seruantes be-
gan to crye, and wayle, and his frendes
began to wepe, and his subiectes cry-
inge out in the stretes, so that all ioye
was turned to sorowe, and the lady his
mother beyng absent, for his sykkenes
was kept fro her knowledg, howbeit
she gyuynge more credyte to her feare,
thē to that was shewed her with bold-
nes of maternall loue, she departed fro
her owne house and came to Busa, and
when she enteryd the gate euery person
that she sawe, gaue her euydence of do-
loure with wordes of extreme passion,
rather then with wordes well ordered.
She heyring how her sone L'eriano was
in the extremities of deth, her strength
fayled her, so that she fell downe to the
erth in a trance, & so longe she laye that
euery man thought that the mother &
the sone shulde take theyr sepulture at
one tyme: howbeit with harde remedy
she came agayne to her selfe, and then
went to her sone, & when she sawe hym
in

92
In that estate, with great wepyng and
passion of deth she sayd as foloweth.

**[The complaynte of Lerianos
mother, at his death.**

O Leriano, the myght, comforte, rest
and supporte of myne olde dayes,
O swete companion to my wyll, this
daye I am lyke to leue callynge the any
more sone, nor thou to call me mother,
of this I haue great feare by the syg-
nes that I se of thy shorte dayes, often
tymes I had suche dreames, wherewith
I haue ben in great feare all the nyght
durynge; other tymes, when I haue
ben in my oratory, prayeng for thy helth
my herte hath fayled me, and a colde
swate hath taken me in suche maner,
that of a longe tyme I wiste not what
to do, also þe bestes haue certyfied me of
thyne euill, for on a day as I came out
of my chambze, there came to me a dog
and made sodenly suche a howlyng þe
for feare therof, I losse the strength of
my body, and could not speke, nor could

þe daye
ne tokes
as to be
noted.

M.iii.

not

not remoue out of þ place that I was
in. And therby I gaue more credence to
my suspecte, then to thy messengers, &
to satysfye my selfe. I am come to se the
☉ the lyght of my lyght & lyfe. O blynd
nes of the same, yf I se the dyc & I can
se none occasion of thy death, thou bes
ynge in age to lyue, & hast alwayes ben
fearefull of god, & lover of all bettues,
and enemye to all byces, frede to freedes
and belouyde, thynke for certayne, this
day y force of thyne euyl fortune taketh
away y ryght of ceasid, synsthou dyest
oz thy tyme, withoute any tynsymptie,
Happye be they that be of lowe and base
condicion, & rude of wytt for they scale
no thyng, but take euery thyng as it
comyth. And vnhappy be they that by
subtyll wytt and sharpe vnderstādyng
know euery thyng. wouldesto god thou
wertte one of þ rude and dull, for I had
rather to be called in to ther to a rude per
sone haupnge thy lyfe, then to haue thy
deth, byng neuer so wyse. O cruel deth
enemy

92
enemye to all mortall creatures thou
wylt pardon no synners, noꝛ allope the
innocentes, thou art suche a traytour,
that no man can make defence agaynst
the, thou chyetest age, and takest a-
waye youth: the one thou sleyst by ma-
lyce, & the other foꝛ enuye, though thou
tary longe, yet thou wylte not forget to
come at last, thou gouernest thy selfe w-
out lawe oꝛ reason, it had ben better
foꝛ the to haue conseru'd my sone be-
yng of .xx. yeres rather then to leue me
his mother of .lxx. yeaeres of age, why
doest thou turne the ryght bysode wne.
I haue lyued longe ynough, & he is yon-
ge yet foꝛ to lyue: pardon me yf I thus
say to the, foꝛ thou by thy cruell workes
causest dolours. yet agayne thou gyeest
comfoꝛte takyng away them shortly, yf
thou leuyest behynde them, that thou
takest away: foꝛ the whiche, yf yf wylt so
do with me, I were moche bounde to yf
that I myght go with my sone Aeria-
no, but yf he myght lyue, & I to dye, it
.M. b. Child

The p-
perle of
deth.

Death
dost ma
ke al thi
ngs fayle

Shulde be my cōforte. O seue what shal
become of my age remēbyng the ende
of thy youth, yf I lyue it shal be rather
to wepe & bewaile my synnes, then to
haue any wyll or desyre to lyue, with
what thyng coulde I receyue more cru
ell payne, then to lyue longe, thyne euyl
is very great, that there can be founde
no remedye, what awayleth nowe the
strength of thy bodye, or the vertue of
thyne herte, or the hardynes of thy cou
rage, all these thyngs that shulde away
le the fayleth, yf for the pryce of loue, thy
lyfe myght be bought, I wolde desyre
deth to do his offyce vpon me, and to de
lyuer the quyte fro hym, but thy fortune
wyll not suffre it, nor I can not therfo
re forow shal be my drynke & my mete &
my thought my slepe vntyll the tyme of
the force of death, and my desyre shal
brynge me to my sepulture.

¶ The author.

The wepyng that Lelianos mo
ther made, encreasyd the payne
of

94
of all them that were presente, and al-
wayes Lariano had Laureola in his re-
membraunce, of that was passe he had
but small memozy, and consyderynge þ
he shuld ioyn but a shorte space with the
syght of the .ii. letters that Laureola
had sent hym, he wylle not howe to or-
der them, when he thought to breake
them, he thought he shulde offende ther
by Laureola, in castynge awaye suche
wordes of so worthy pryce as was wy-
ten in them, & when he thought to put
into any of his seruautes handes, he fe-
ryd lest they shuld be sente, wherby peryl
myght folow, then in all these doubtis
he toke the surest waye, he called for a
cup of water, and then brake the letters
in to small peces, and so set vp in his
bed, and dranke by the water with the
peces of the letters, and so he satisfyed
therby his wyll, and then drawynge to
his endewarde, he caste his syght vpon
me & sayd, frende now all myne euylles
be ended, and therewith gaue by his lyfe

what
was do
with the
letters.

Lariano
not dead

in

In wytnes of his true faith. Then what
sorrowe I felte, & what I dyd is lightly
iudged; the wepynges that was there
made of his death, were suche that me
thynke it cruelte to wyte it: then his
obsequies & buryals were done moſte
honourably, accordyng to þe deſert of
his vertues. and as for my ſelfe, with a
better wyll I wold haue departed this
lyfe, then to haue tarped on the earth
a lyue: ſo with ſyghes I went my way,
and departed with wepyng, and with
lamentacion I ſore complayned, and
with ſuche thoughtes I wente to my
lodgyng. And when I ſawe þe con-
ſentyng & deſpyrnyng of my death coul-
de not remedy hym þe was paſſyd, nor
coude be no comforte to my ſelfe, then
I determyned to departe, and to go in
to myne owne countree, and yet fyrſt I
purpoſed to go to the courte to here and
ſe what was ſayd for þe death of Veria-
no, & to ſe how Laurocola toke þe mater.
Thus I thought to go thither, what
for

25
for this cause, & for other busynes that
I had there to do with some of my fren-
des also I purposed to speke with Lau-
reola yf I myght, to know yf I myght
se in her any repentance, & to se what
true louers wolde saye of her crueltie
bysed agaynst hym, & deseruyd hygh re-
warde. And also I was glad to depar-
te fro the place where as Leriano dyed
to put parte of my sorow out of my min-
de. So I came to y^e courte more accom-
panyed wth sorow, then with any desyre
to lyue, remembryng how he h^{ad} made me
begyn this mater, was in his sepulture
At the palayce I was receyved with
moche heynnes of many that knewe the
deth of Leriano, then I resyted to such
as were his frendes, the secretaries of his
deth. Then I went into y^e hall, where I
was accustomed to speke wth Laureola,
to se yf I myght se what there she ma-
de. And I who by reason of sore wepyng-
ge had nere lost my syght, I looked all a-
boutte, but I coulde not se her, yet when
she

She talke me, lyke a discrete lady suspec-
tyng that I wolde haue spoken with
her wenyng that I had not sent her she
turned towarde her chambze as she
came by me. I spyed well it was she,
who had brought Lariano fro his lyfe
& me almost without knowledg, then
I with sore wepyng & paynfull syghes
began to speke to her in this maner.

The auctor to Laureola.

Lariano
beth.

Lady meche more had ben better,
for me to haue losse my lyfe, then
to haue knowen your cruelines & small
pytie, I saye this bycause I had rather
with reason haue praysed your gentyl-
nes, with sepyng you to haue satisfed
the scrupes that hath ben don to you
by Lariano, then to prayse your beaute
and great deservynge gyvynge death
to hym & so often tymes with so good
wyl to do you scrupre hath desyred to
dye, but syng your mynde was to gyue
hym & death, ye haue not begyled hym
nor me, for ye haue payed hym ther-
with

with, ye haue bled the clēnes of your
lynage. Remembre that suche as be of
so hyghe bloude as ye be, are as moche
bounde to satisfie the lest seruyce that
is doneto them, as well as to kepe & de
fēde theyr honour. And certaynly I say
that yf ye had sene his deth, all the day
es of your lyfe, ye woulde wepe. Remem
bre now what charge of consyence ye
brought hym in, for when he dyed wher
as he shulde haue had mosse memory
vpon his soule, & what shulde haue ben
done with his body, he then remēbred
more the letters that ye had sent hym,
the whiche he toke and care in peces, &
dranke them i water bycause they shuld
neuer be sene, and bycause he wold cary
with hym some thyng that had ben
yours, to thentent that ye shulde haue
more compassiō of his deth then ye had
of his life. I shew you for certayne thus
I said hym dye, bicause ye shewd hym
no compassion. Now you shew your self
to be sozry that in suche absence of your
small

96
Robyn
ought
rather
to reed-
penorhe
to forget

Small loue was cleue forgotten. O how
many now do wepe for his deeth, and yet
they know not the cause. But as to me
(fro whom y secretnes was not hyden)
then moche more it muste nedes greue
me, remembryng, how in your handes
restyd his lyfe, and seyng your crueltie,
and his small remedy, ye caused hym to
dye a cause his mother to lye in sorow
by cause she can not dye, and as for my
lyuyng, I am alwayes dyeng: and I
beleue ye couyte not greatly your owne
lyfe, to remembre what ye haue done,
but that ye know well there be but few
persons that know what ye haue done,
I thynke ye feare but ytell the same of
your cruyl name, for ye seclerely how I
am lyke to dye, therfore ye feare not y
I shulde publyshe your crueltie, thynke
not that I am in feare to saye thus to
you, for yf I trouble you with the qua-
litye, content you then with the quan-
titye, thus I haue so great reason to spe-
ke, and not to ende properly, & for this
my

97
my boldnes, yf I deserue any punishment, cause me to be slayne, for ye shall better rewarde me with death, then to chace me to lyue in this case.

¶ The auctor.

She troubled stode Laureola, yet for all that euer I sayde, her face shewed no alteration of her herte, how be it lyke a discrete Lady, reuynynge wepyng dissimuled her sorowe, & not blamyng my boldnes with an heuye chere she answered me as foloweth.

¶ Laureola to the auctor.

I wolde I had as moche wyfdom to satisfie the, as I haue reason to discharge my selfe, & yf it were so thou shuldest fynde me as well discharged, as I cepture the dyngent. Thou sayest thou wouldest thou haddest as moche cause to prayse my pyrie, as thou hast cause to blame my crueltie, and on that condition thou despyest no longer to lyue: thou blamyst me sayeng howe I thoughte to be Lariano, and hathe begyled

A.i. hym

hym & werped the. I wolde thou knewest I neuer thought to gyue hym the deth, for doyng as thou sayest, what is it that I haue done, I neuer brake any promyse, what do I owe the or hym, & thou dydest trauayll for: or what dyd I to satisfie thyne intensiō, I dyd put hym without doubte, & the wout charge, yf I had ben beleurd, then myne is but a smal charge: thou sayest I ought to regarde the cleannes of my lynage, lookinge profoundly thereon, hath caused me to do as I haue done, thou knowest well, all women are more bounde to regarde theyr honours, rather then to accomplishe any amorous will or appetyte. Then syns all womē are bounde to this howe moche more then by reason, are those bounde & be descendyd of a blode Royall, thinke not & I receyue any pleasure for the deth of Aleriano, nor beleue not & it can so moche greue the, as it soroweth me, howbeit the feare of my honoure, and the feare of my father dyd more

feare.

more in me, then the euill wyll that I
bare hym, nor thynke not that I knowe
ledge of his seruyce, was forgotten, but
that I gaue hym great thanke, and yf
with any rewarde I myght haue payd
be hym, sauyng my honoure, it shoulde
haue ben done, and I shoulde not haue
then both he and thy selfe shoulde as mo-
che haue praysed, as now thou blamyest
me for brynndnes in his lyfe, without
the losse of lyfe, I coulde not rewarde
hym accordyng to his desyre, I wyll
thou knowe, that his death causeth me
to lyue alwayes dyeng, now shalt thou
se how moche it soroweth me, and how
moche he pleased me, now thou shalt
iudge what loue I bare hym, & knowe
yf I dyd well to suffre hym to dye thou
knowest well I with his lyfe, he myght
haue wonne, that by his death he dis-
payred and losse it, but syns I can not,
nowe paye nor rewarde hym, I shall
tysse the & make the here wytnes, yf I
rewarde not seruyce, as I ought to do.

R. ii. ¶ The

[The auctor.]

She ended her wordes with such heupnes, that she coude scante make a ende for sorowe: then she went from me sobbyng, and sore wepyng wherby her tonge was sore troubled, & chaunged colour: and so went in to her chambre with sore & warde lamentacion, for feare she coude haue ben herd. Then I went to my lodgyng with so great sorowe that oftentimes I was desperat of my lyfe, with myne owne death I wolde haue ben reueged yf I coude, not putting my selfe in dyspayre. And thus being alone without pleasur aswell as without frendes to speke vnto, for myrnes I layde me downe, & as though I had sene Aleriano before me present, I sayd to hym as foloweth.

*The auctor
sayd to
Aleriano.*

[The auctor to Aleriano.]

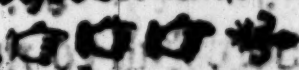
Aleriano I charge to thy aduerture and frende to thy myshape, who can be cause of thy lyfe with this ambassade, as I was cause of thy death with

with my message, for now if thou knewest the repentance of Laureola thou wouldest chaunge the glory celestiall, for thy lyfe temporal: for by thy death, thou hast loste thy desyre, yf thou haddest saved thy lyfe without doubt, thou shouldest have wonne what by thy death thou hast lost. Woe I may say to þe, when thou saw a dyeng. that by thy death þe shouldest lese all, and by thy lyfe thou myghtest have come to thy desyre. O unhappie þe I thinke, that I were not in the place where as I myghte shewe the all þe Laureola hat a sayd to me, a of the thought þe takest for lesynge of thy lyfe, though with the death thou hast wonne the desyre of thy wyll, by that she sheweth now thou oughtest to thynke thy death well bestowed, great joy I shuld receyve, yf I knewe þe thou dyddest here me & beleve me: for thou mayst se þe alone here repentance sufficeth to pay the thy reward. yf thou haddest lived, thou shouldest have had no cause to have ben in

M.iiij. trou-

trouble, no to thy payne shalbe without
hope of sufferance, now thou needest not
to be troubled with thy lyfe, nor take no
ioy of thy deth. ¶ What welth shulde it
be for me, yf god wolde suffre me to lese
my lyfe to recouer thynne, why doth god
leue me here without þ. ¶ Who can lese
the, & lyue after, we do to god, that the
good wyll þ I haue to thy lyfe, myghte
paye me with my deth, the which I ho
pe thou shuldest do, yf thou haddest as
good wyll to se me, as I haue desyre to
serue the. Thus I wol leue, any further
to trouble the.

¶ The auctors dreame.
Thus I was so wery, that I leste
my talkynge, and as he that wylt
not what he dyd, I fell on a slumbre, &
anone I beganne to dreame: wherby I
had more payne then pleasure. For I
thought I sawe Aleriano before me ap
parelled after a woderous new maner
For on his heed he had a bonet of scar
let with a grene rebande of an euyl co
lour

107
Iour wheron was embroydred this sen-
tence. 

Hope is deed & dayne by unkynd-
nes, but when he came nere me I mas-
ked his chytre, wheron was wrought
these wordes.

Death is founde & gyuen for sted-
fastnes, and his doublet of yelow sa-
ten embrowdred thus.

Passion for Joy my loue hath satif-
fied, & a Jacket of blak beluet, & a bro-
der of laten of þe same colour reportyng

Your trespass my stedfastnes full
well hath berished, his gyrdell of golde
enamuled with this wytyng.

Better was death than lyfe, yow
to serue, his dagger and knyves the haf-
tes and pomell of asure ingrauen with
this tette.

Yet brewarded was the passion
that dyd me serue.

And his sword and scabbarde of besuet
a gyrdell of spike, the hyltes and pomel
syluer, and on both sydes embrowdred

With

with letters of golde that sayde.

Tyour letters dowtfull to my lyfe,
gaue suche torment.

That rather byeng then lyuynge, was
contente.

His hosen one whyte, & another bl. hoe
with letters of purpull colour sayeng.

My lyfe caused Ielousnes in your
chastyte, but to serue you suffred I coul
de not be.

But ouer all this he had a clike of the
new: st. alchyon, the colour blacke em-
browdred with, sarde rabeon sayeng.

My heuynes and payne can not
chaunge my stedfastnes.

And his slippers of red velvet embze to
dred with small letters and sayd.

Endyd be myne euyls and my ser-
uice payde with bickynnes.

And on his gloues was wyrtten.

Loue beganne my payne,

And death endyd it agayne.

So when I had at length regarded
his apparell and consyterd the stedfast
thought?

thoughtes, that by lykelyhod he endu-
red, and beholdynge his face, I saw his
countenaunce so beautifull, that it se-
med he had neuer takē thought. And w-
amorous and demure iesture and sem-
blant after he had curtesly saluted me
with the same voyce, as he was wont
to speake, me thought he began to saye
in this maner.

Clariano beyng deede to
the auctoz.

Thou my true frende, thou haste
thought that my presence hath be-
ben longe fro the, so that I coulde not
tell what thou dyddest, nor harde what
thou haste spoken, thynke not so, for I
shall neuer be so farre fro the, but that
I shall alwayes be ioyned with the, for
thoughe by aduventure in my lyfe I de-
parted fro the, neuer in the deth I shall
departe fro the, I shall alwayes be ioyn-
ed with þ. And all that thou hast sayd
of Laureola and of me, I was present
and herde it, god knoweth yf I myght,

R.b.

I

I wolde haue spoken to þe, but I coulde
not, nor feare wolde not let me, but I
certifye þe that this þe I do, though my
speche be short, yet it turmenteth me, &
therfore accordynge the trust þe I haue
in thy great vertue, I wyll not put the
to the payne with lōge wordes, therfore
I wyll go to the effeete of thy wordes
and to my answer. Thou sayest thou
woldest gladly put me agayne in to lyfe
as thou puttedest me to deth, beleue not
that thy message gaue me the deth, nor
I in the begynnynge can not be excused
fro cōmyng to this ende: thou sayest þe
woldest that I were in þe disposicion that
I myght ioye me for the repentynge of
Laureola. I can not thanke the therfo
re, bycause I can not make the a recom
pence, for the greattest serurce þe I coul
de make is not so great, but the lesse de
seruyng that I haue receyued of the is
moche greater. As for her rewardes I
desyre them not, for I can haue as now
no ioye of them, though I desyre them
neuer

neuer so moche, and though nobo wold
her repentynge she thynke to satisfie me
yet her cruelnes was so troublous, that
though she dyd more, yet I can not be
rewarded. Thou sayest I shuld thynke
my death well employed, syng I haue
wonne by her that without her I losse,
nobo wold I do it, yf lyfe were left with
me, for though I myght ioye therewith
what profyte shuld it be to me to beleue
this without I myght se what she doth
& I beleue yf she myght se me agayne
to lyue, she wolde gyue me more payne
and lesse hope, but the best to be deliue-
ryd fro hope is death, for it is better to
suffre a good deth, then to endure with
an euill lyfe, beleue not but and I had
beleued that I shulde haue serupd her,
better lyuyng then to dye. I wolde not
haue dyed yet, but syng þ with my lyfe
I coulde not preuayll, I thought then
with death to remedy me thynke not þ
I was so farre without wytte, that I
knew not that it was good to lyue to ser-
ue

us her, though I coulde haue no ioye of
her, but I coulde neuer knowe by her
answere, that she was content with my
cursse as thou knowest right well, but
she byd let me dye, for I desired lyfe to
leue me, also thou sayst that thou desy-
rest to recouer me, and o kyle thy lyfe, I
beleue the, and I thanke the therof,
though I can do none other thing thou
desyrest me to pray for thy deeth, because
we myghte lyke frendes ioye together
syng we coulde not in our lyfe, be net of
the beleue, for I had rather her speake
of thy lyfe without syght of the, then
to know thou shouldest be with me deed
I doubt by thy deeth thou shouldest but
chaunge thy lyfe, for thy same shuld ne-
uer dye but euer lyue, thus I wyll leue
the, not because I wyll go farr fro the,
wherfore I requyre the take it for none
euyl that I speke no more to the, for
though I wolde I can not.

¶ The auctor.

¶ The

When Leriano had made an ende of
his wordes I thought to haue an-
swered hym, but then in my dreame
me thought Laureola entred in to my
chambre, as visibly as though I had
sene her wakenge, but me thought her
apparell was straunge, and not comely
for one suche of her estate and condyci-
on, and in regardynge the noblenes of
the thyng I left to answer Leriano
and began to marke and take hede, of
her newe apparell, so that I looked no
more of Leriano, for she had on her hed
a freshe and a newe attyre set and em-
broyded with letters, sayeng.

Covynousnes hathe not slayne
you, nor my cruelnes.

Her smocke wrought with whyte spike
the letters therof sayde.

Courteyse better then death shoulde
sayle my stedfastnes.

Her byrtell of blacke satin with a folys
ge of saddetawnyc embroyded with
this sayeng.

The 103
me of
Laureola
la when
she appe
red.

Chr

Thy death hath lost that thy lyfe
myght haue atteyned.

Her gowne of blacke beluet, with boz-
ders of tyllue embzowed with letters

Thy lyfe shulde haue clered that,
thy death hath atteyned.

Her gyrdell of beten golde, sette with
perle in letters sayeng thus.

Thy lyfe myght enioyed thy desyre
Then her tablet of golde, hangynge w
a lace of white & blacke ingrauen thus.

Space myght haue quēched your
great fyre.

She had a tabarde of blew ruffe with
these wordes grauen on both sydes.

Of pytie myght reuue the agayne
thou: shulde not leue thus in bayne.

Her mantell was of two coloures, one
parte red, the other blewe, with a wy-
tynge that sayde of the secyete myght
be without suspencion.

Agaynst the to serue me, I wolde
haue made no excepcion.

Her petticoate of crymsen sylke embzow-
dred

with letters of whyte sayeng.

Thy stedfastnes and payne, cau-
seth my heuynes.

And her sylppers of taboyne beluet, and
vpon them leters that sayde.

Thy euylles be ended, but myne
be endles.

And on her gloues was wyrtten thus.

Thy payne, begynneth my payne,
and wolde deth shuld ende it agayne.

All these well noted and marked and
dyd perceyue the wyrtting, me thought
as I dyd coniecture, they answered as
directly to the wyrttynges, that I sawe
vpon Leriano, as though one had spo-
ken, and the other had answered, but
the haungy moche sorowe, and small
pleasure, and by semblant more lykely
to dye then to lyue, tournynge her face
towards Leriano, where he stode, be-
gan to saye in this maner. &c.

Claureola to Leriano.

If Kende Leriano neuer thynke, &
the force of the strenght for to ly-
tell

The Tn
t. ovl is
in some
women.

tell an inconuenience, that I shuld con-
sent: or lose, for as thou hast sayde to be
desyrous to serue me, more honoure &
shuld est haue done me in luyngge, then
I to gyue the deth, for surely thy weak-
nes, nor thy paynes, nor yet thy loue
coude not make me beleue, that thou
shuldest haue dyed, therfore thou mayst
clerely se what euyl thou hast done, yf
thou thynke that I dyd, was to mocke
the, or to proue the, what errour then I
haue done to thy purpose, if true louers
can not suffre, howe shall they come to
theyr desyres, he that can not suffre,
can not ioye, ney but seldome attayne
to his glorie, there is no vertue, but in
sufferynge of payne therby to haue ioy
or theyr good aduerture, thou ought, to
more to be blamed, beyng discrete for
that thou hast done, then to be praysed
for a true louer. And beleue surely that
yf I had not ben surer of thy fayth, I
wolde haue gyuen noo credence to thy
swedastnes, nor yet haue gyuen & none
occa-

occasion at þe begynnynge to haue come
to this ende, and more to shewe the, the
trouth then to rewarde the of thy pay-
ne. I make the sure, yf I had beleued
that þe shuldest haue dyed, I wolde ra-
ther haue taken the death myself, then
to haue consented to thy deathe, for if
shulde haue ben great conscience to me
to haue sufferyd the to dye, for the truste
that I had, in that thou dyddest for my
seruyce caused me in maner to beleue
thy wyrtunge, but then agayne the sure-
tie that I thought had ben in thy wyl-
dome & discrecion, caused me to doubte
it, and in this maner I gaue more cre-
dence to thy discrecion, then to thy de-
termyned death, Leticiano it oughte to
haue suffred the to remembre in what
case myne honoure stode in and peryll
of my lyfe, and to haue ben content to
knowe that I soughte the my fauoure,
for thy euyl greued me worse, then my
ne owne, though I shewed it not to the
yf thou wilt denye this, remembre what

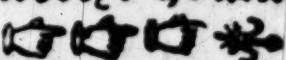
D. i.

I

I was, and how small necessity I had
of thy service, ones writing to the shul
be have sufficed, though I dyd not put
the innocencie, for thou knowest well
that my writinge proceeded of no feare
but of myne owne good wyll, and thou
canst not deny, when of my message,
thou dydest dispayre and dyed, dyd I
not put þ in hope when I sayd, that yf
I lyued lenger then my father, then
thou shuldest se howe I wolde rewarde
thy deservyng, so that thou shuldest not
blame me, for any unkindnes, I wyll
speke no more syns I shall no more se þ
and bycause I can receyve no more pas
sion then I do for thy death, therefore I
make choise my wordes, though my
payne be large making the sure, I chal
rewarde thy soule, syns by myne unhap
py reason of thy death, I can not re
warde thy body.

¶ The auctor.

When Laureola spake these wordes
to Lariano, I stode in straunge ma
ner

her ryght soze abashed to se her great
pytie and ioyninge her wysdome and
knowynge her wyll, and herynge of her
amorous reasons, these ouercame my
strength, though she spake not to me,
yet I praysed moch her sayeng, though
it auayled but litle, howbeit me thou-
ghte her reasons were so iuste that Le-
riano coulde make none answer, to sa-
tisfye them, not for the small confyden-
ce that I had in his wysdome, but by-
cause of the trouble of his spyrites inse-
ynge present before hym the creature,
whom he most desyred, yet me thought
he cast by his iyen to heauen, and with
great curtesye he answered her in this
maner. 

Cleriano to Laureola.

O Dere lady yf I had the wysdome,
to shewe you the case and quarell
of myne euyl, as well as I haue reason
to suffer it. I coulde then as well an-
swere you, as yf I myght lyue to serue
you, ye saye ye coulde neuer beleue that

D.ii.

the

the force of my death coulde ouercome
my strength: Haue no meruayll therof,
for withoute my desyre I coulde fynoe
no thyng to defende me, but of that ye
blame me, ye deserue the payne, for ye
myght haue gyuen me remedy, and ye
consented that I shuld dye. And where
as ye saye I erred, bycause I wolde not
defende my selfe after mynge þ I shulde
haue sought all the wayes therto, yf ye
dyd it to proue or to mocke me, Iudge
what ye saye, and beholde what case I
was in, and ye shall say that a herte ful
of sorowe neuer taketh good newes: for
certayne, and of euyl newes it maketh
no doubte, and all this that ye haue say
de. I beleue it trewe, of your owne par
te knowyng your great cruelte, and my
small hap thynke not that the small tra
uayll that I toke, was in defendyng
of my lyfe, but that it was to serue you
for it had ben more payne for me to ha
ue defendyd my selfe fro the death, then
to suffer it, remembryng my selfe that
I

I had no desyre to lyue, but alonely to
serue you, and when I sawe that I ser-
ued and that ye wolde not of my seruy-
ce lyuyng, then I thought to serue you
with my death, and thynke not that I
lope so lytell of my death, but that I
thynke it well employed, syns ye haue
nowe discoueryd your ppye, the whiche
in my lyfe alwayes ye denyed, ye say the
hope that ye gaue me shulde haue suffy-
ced me; I denye it not accordyng to
ye be, for one loke of you had ben suffy-
cient for my seruyce that I coulde haue
done, for where as the lesse hope appe-
red certayne, then muche more was
your deservynge, and of my deservynge
I was in doubt: for the greater that
the reward was, the lesse I deservyd
it, and therfore I dyd as ye haue said.
And where as ye speake of, ischongur
and lyfe, ye knowe well for certayne, ye
forget it not what small charge it
was to you, and the experyence which
grewd me, ye knowe your selfe, the war-
D.iii. kes

kes are trytues: Also ye say that at the
begynnyng ye were without any char
ge, and after what peryl I sawe you in
and that. I was redy to haue gyuen oc
casion to haue brought you in to suspec
te. I begyled you not, for afterwarde
I sheewed your cleennes, ye neuer sayde
in your wytyng any thyng for certay
ne, but alwayes I was in doute of any
rewarde, and the lesse I hopyd the mo
re I feared, and thus ye may se that by
your owne excuse, ye condemne youre
selfe; and thus I can not seke you, I
wyl not trouble you, nor speake any mo
re, save I desyre of you in rewarde of
my true fapth, to let me bysse your han
de, by cause with that glory, may toy
in my death, sayng I coulde not in my
lyfe, nor ye wolde not suffre me, & thus
I wyl departe fro you, beseeching you
as ye say to haue remembraunce of my
soule, thus ye haue forgotten my body,
nor, I desyre no more to trouble you,
nor to be importunat with any mo wor
des

bes, thus I make auende, desyring you
of pardon, and yf any thyng may pe-
cume to auayll: for the ryches of my sor-
wyce, that ye wyll remembre my trouth
and good wyll, the whiche I set before
your eyes, to the intent that of my death
ye shuld haue some compassion, syns ye
had none of my lyfe.

¶ The auctor.



When this mater was thus pas-
sed betwene them, I stode and
behelde the curtesy that Letia-
no made, and the small thought that
D. till.

She was no lesse comfortfull for his death
then hym self was, therefore to chement
not to trouble her, he sufferyd the pay-
re, and wolde speke no more of his death
and as moch as pleased me to se them
together, as moch it greuyd me the re-
membraunce of the death of Lariano,
and accordynge to theyr reasons, they
ioyed me so that I wolde they reasons
shulde neuer haue ended, for the me
I knewe well that Lariano receyued
glory to se her, and Laureola receyued
no harme to se hym, though he were
dead I desire that they shoulde
neuer haue ended, nor theyr syght depart
yet asunder, but alwayes do things of
pleasour, selde come endurth longe. And
as I thus laye dremyng, at laste me
thought I harde a heauy voice that sayd
be, come awaye Lariano and tarre no
longer. And then with a doleous sygh
Lariano with his benet in his hande,
went to Laureola, and kyssed her hande,
and she to gyue hym some glory suffer-
yd

erdyd hym the which in his lyfe tyme she
wolde neuer do, & so kysyng her hande
he sayd. O thou death thou hast slayne
my memory, yet to my death is gyuen
glory, and therewith he banished away
And when I sawe I coulde se hym no
moie, then I regarded Aureola to se
what countenaiuer she made. I sawe
her stande in great heynnes, her eyes
bathed in water, and her beaute faded
of coloure pale and wanne, and had lost
her speche, and I seynge her in suche
maner of disposition, had compassion
to se her, then Acriano that was deed,
what with syght of the one, and of the
other, was in suche peryll, and so despe-
rate, that to save the truthe, I desired
rather to have folowed Acriano deed,
then to have folowed Aureola luyng
wold with great heynnes, as my che as
she myght, dissymuled her payre that
she endured, for the death of Acriano, &
discretely she dyd refrayne her wepyng
and sayde to me as foloweth.


D. b.

¶ A. u.

Clauicola to the auctoz.

If I ende truly with a better herte
and wyll, I wyll contynue this
lyfe, rather then to go out of thy cham-
ber withoute it were, that I beleue in
my geynge awaye, my soule shall de-
parte, for surely yf I had beleued to ha-
ue sene Leticiano in that case, as I haue
sene hym now, I wold neuer haue come
hyther to se hym, but rather haue suffe-
ryd payne with his absence, then glo-ry
to se hym sayng I can not remedye hym
I had thought neuer to haue had su-
ch payne for hym, for so moze that the
greatnesse of a state withstode and de-
uyed yet for all that, I thought to haue
done the contrarie, or my lyfe had de-
parted, for w great traueyl, I thought
to haue sued to the kyng my father
for his lybertie; it was not by my con-
sente, that he was comaundyd, not to
come into the courtte, where as he my-
ghte haue place to haue sene me, yet for
all that he neded not to haue dyed, for
the

the tyme myght haue come, that he shul
de haue had no cause to haue dyspayred
for though he I by my crueltie had con-
sented to haue put hym to passion, yet
I myght as well agayne haue rewar-
ded hym by my bountie and pyte, as to
haue denyed hym, I wyll as nowe ma-
ke no quarell to my wyll syns his seruy-
ce and good workes I thought to ha-
ue rewarded, but I quarell with the
beautie that god hath gyuen me, and so
myght Neriano haue done: for that mo-
re begyled hym, then other condycion
or wyll. But bycause the tyme is shorte
and the passion great, I wyll no more
say but I make the sure, that though he
Neriano were not worthy of a state nor
lynage, to haue had me to his wyfe, yet
he shuld not haue bene in dyspayre ther-
of, but syns I can not as nowe rewar-
de his workes and good seruyce, I des-
pyse the not to departe from the courte,
though thy desyre be in to thyne owne
naturall countre, & so doyng thou shalt
know

knowe by the rewarde that I shall ge
ue the what honoure I bare to Aeria-
no luyng. 

¶ The auctoz.



When Laureola had ended her wordes, she was so heuye, and so full of wepyng, that in a maner her paynfull lyfe greuyd me as sore, as the death of Aerialo. And to all this that she hadde sayde I wolde haue answered her, and than:

gy
ta=
thanked her of her great bountie to me
Cherred; as well as for the curtesye of
her meke speche. And so me thought as
I was moued sodenly with a great
syghe she departed from me, and with a
lowde voyce sayde: I can no more sorow
we the death, whiche is euer certayne,
then the losse of the lyfe of hym that is
deed: then I looked all aboute, and sawe
howe I was left all alone, and ther-
with awoke out of my dreame, then I
was so sorowfull, & I wyl not what
to do, nor thynke of my dreame, and whē
I sawe no man to speke unto, I was so
pensyue & open tymes with myne owne
handes I thought to haue rydde my ly-
fe, therby thynkyng to haue founde &
I had losse, and when I remembred that
with my death I coulde not recouer &
lyf of & deed, then I thought it a great
erroure to lese myne owne soule
out the ioyeng of his body. And as was
a sure experyence that Dyllyke increa-
seth payne to hym that is in sorowe, so
lyke

lykehoyle it encreaseth pleasure in the
herte of them that be contente and in
ioy, then I toke an harpe and songe as
foloweth. ¶ I make an ende of my son-
ge, & then without any more studeynge
that I had to do, I commaunded to sa-
dell my horse, for I thought it was ty-
me for me to departe to go into myne
owne countree. And thus I departed
fro them, that I mette in the strete mo-
re accompanied with sorowe and we-
prynge eyes, then with any other conso-
lacion of pleasure, my hevyness so encre-
ased, and my helth so payred that I ne-
ver thoughte to come a lyue into my
countree, and when I was well ente-
red on my waye, there came soo many
thynges to my fantasye, that thynkyn-
ge on them, I was nere out of my witt,
howbeit at last remembryng my selfe,
that was no profyte to muse on them
I trauaylled my selfe as moche as I
myght to byngge them out of my reme-
mbrance. So I trauaylled my body in
this

this iourney, and my soule in sondrye
thoughtes, and fynallye I arryued at
myne owne poore mansyon, and thus I
bydde farewell & adieu all true louers.
And all the readers and herers of this
p:bles, desyringe them where they syn-
de faulte, to amende it, & I shall pray to
God for theyr prosperite, & at their ende
to sende them the ioyes of paradyce.

A M E N.

¶ Thus endeth this
Castell of loue.

¶ Imprinted by
me Robert wyer,
For Richard
Kele.



ROBERT & WYER

